

32-PAGE NEWS SECTION WITH 9 PAGES OF SPORT

NEW 24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW

Rolling Stones gather no tax

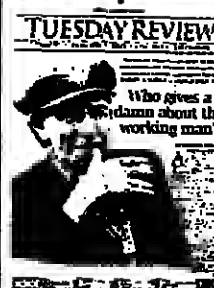
HOME NEWS, PAGE 3

Hoddle hasn't got a prayer

EAMON DUNPHY, PAGE 30

Whatever happened to the man in the street?

PLUS MORE COMMENT, HEALTH, ARTS, LISTINGS & MEDIA



Plans to hit motorists and impose tax on congestion delayed after Brown intervenes

Prescott's car tax plan is stalled

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

THE controversial transport White Paper proposing new charges on motorists to curb the use of the car is being delayed until the end of next month.

John Prescott and Gordon Brown have agreed to postpone it until after the Chancellor's comprehensive spending review, enabling the Deputy Prime Minister to unveil extra investment in roads and public transport partly financed by the new charges.

Mr Prescott confirmed, in an interview with *The Independent*, that the White Paper would propose "congestion charging" on cars entering towns and cities, but early drafts which were criticised as too "anti-car" by Tony Blair's policy advisers have been toned down to make them more motorist-friendly.

The paper, to be followed by the announcement of a reduced road-building programme, will try to cushion the blow to motorists by setting up a motorists' charter, guaranteeing action on road repairs, and proposing action against Arthur Daley-style second hand car salesmen and clamping "cowboys".

For the first time, motorists will be able to check on whether second-hand cars have been stolen or involved in accidents, by paying a fee to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency.

Mr Prescott also plans to let motorway breakdown services, such as

the RAC and the AA, use the hard shoulder of motorways to rescue stranded motorists making emergency calls.

The charter will guarantee levels of service by the Highways Agency, the DVLA, and local authorities.

It will be overseen by a new regulatory organisation, provisionally called Ofroad, which will have the power to reduce roadworks and force highways authorities to shorten journey times by removing obstructions.

The White Paper will herald the introduction of motorway tolls when the technology is available, and charges on parking bays in out-of-town supermarkets and offices in towns. Mr Prescott is seeking to soften the blow by reducing the charges for supermarkets that offer park-and-ride schemes to reduce car use.

Business rates for rural garages could be cut in an attempt to reduce the cost of petrol for rural motorists to that in towns.

The Tories plan to attack Mr Prescott for hitting motorists on the "school run" but he is determined to counter the criticism by proposing "safer routes to schools, with investment from charging to restore school bus services."

Mr Prescott said: "We have now decided that the White Paper to be produced after the spending review, because it is then that the allocation of resources and issues are determined, and the three-year

programme for investment."

Ministers are also studying the option of a further increase in petrol duty on top of the annual 6 per cent rise.

In an important concession in tax policy, the Chancellor has agreed that the additional money will be allocated for improvements in transport services.

"I have to fight for the principle that we can get involved in price mechanisms, in congestion charging, in pricing parking," Mr Prescott said.

"I think the time has come for that and what most people say they want for it is that money should go to the benefit of transport and not anything else. There is no argument about the principle."

Transport is to be included in the comprehensive spending review as the third spending priority with health and education for the three years up to the next election.

Mr Prescott is not proposing the early introduction of 44-tonne lorries on British roads. EU regulations require this country to move to 40-tonne vehicles, but there may be a move upwards at a later date.

Mr Prescott spoke of his "warm" working relationship with the Chancellor, underlining their alliance at the heart of the Government to finance a wide range of new public projects, possibly including future roads with private finance.

Interview, page 4
Leading article, Review, page 3



Tartan-clad Scotland football fans in Paris ahead of tomorrow's World Cup opening match against Brazil

Brian Harris

Phantom tickets will lock out fans

BY MATTHEW BRACE
AND NICK HARRIS

THOUSANDS OF Scottish fans arriving in Paris today and tomorrow for the opening match of the World Cup may find themselves barred from the ground because their pre-paid tickets do not exist.

Several travel agents in Scotland are said to be trying frantically to contact fans who have bought World Cup packages from them to break the news that the tickets are not going to materialise when they try to collect them in France.

One travel agent, Kelvin Travel in Glasgow, admitted that of 960 packages it has sold in good faith, it is having to cancel 640 because the company due to supply the tickets



had not delivered them. It refused to name the firm, but it is believed to be in the United States.

A spokesman for Kelvin Travel, which the Association of British

Travel Agents confirmed had not acted illegally, said yesterday he had 40 staff on the telephone from dawn until dusk trying to trace fans who had purchased the packages to tell them they would not be getting their stadium tickets.

"There are a lot of travel agents in Scotland in the same position but we decided to put our hands up and come clean. Everyone affected in this way will get a full refund," he promised. Those affected are those who decided, against the advice of the Scottish Football Association, to buy tickets from unofficial outlets, such as Kelvin Travel, instead of going through the SFA itself or their approved agencies.

The SFA official ticket allocation for the Scotland-Brazil game, which

includes the lavish opening ceremony, was 5,000 out of 80,000.

Last week, in a separate case, a London-based company Great Portland Entertainment Ltd, was closed down by the Department of Trade and Industry. The company had taken more than £2.4m in payments for World Cup tickets but many people claimed they had not received them.

It was announced yesterday that the Prince of Wales, his son Prince Harry, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of York, Prince Edward, and Peter Phillips, son of the Princess Royal, would be attending the England and Scotland matches during the opening rounds of the tournament.

World Cup, pages 28-32

North Sea gas plant came close to disaster

BY TERRY MACALISTER

A GAS storage platform in the North Sea, with 70 workers on board, has been close to disaster twice this year after two serious gas leaks, which have been blamed on managerial mistakes.

The Health and Safety Executive has ordered BG (formerly British Gas), which operates the platform, to carry out urgent improvements to safety procedures. An internal BG report, obtained by *The*

Independent, highlights the seriousness of the first leak last February and points to a catalogue of management and operational mistakes.

The two leaks bear remarkable similarity to the leak of gas which led to the Piper Alpha disaster almost exactly 10 years ago, when 167 oil workers died after an explosion on the production platform in the North Sea. BG's platform in the Rough gas field lies 20 miles off Hull.

BG's report, by its safety and environment directorate, says: "There were no injuries

but the high potential for major loss deemed it necessary to instigate a thorough independent investigation." The report's executive summary concludes that there was "less than adequate planning of activities including risk assessment" and "less than adequate incident response management".

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) officials ordered BG to tighten up its procedures after the second leak, three weeks ago, even before its own investigation into the first leak had been completed.

A spokesman for the HSE confirmed that a full investigation of both gas leaks was under way and said legal action had not been ruled out.

BG said it would be "appropriate" to comment in detail on the leaks while the HSE was in the middle of an investigation.

Unions claim the incidents, on 13 February and 20 May, bear an uncanny resemblance to the Piper Alpha gas leak. Roger Spiller, head of MSF's North Sea section, said: "Our members are very concerned

that BG appears to have done nothing to sort out the problems."

The starting problem in both leaks appears to have been failure of a flange during maintenance work. Lord Cullen's inquiry into Piper Alpha found that that disaster was similarly caused by the failure of a flange and made safety recommendations to ensure that similar failures could not happen again.

BG confirmed it had hit trouble on Rough, which is used for the storage of gas to meet peak winter demands.

A formal statement, released yesterday about the 13 February incident, says: "This occurred during routine maintenance operations, when a seal failed during testing. This was an attended operation, and the leak was quickly controlled by operations staff offshore."

Of the 20 May incident, a company statement said: "The platform, which was in injection mode at the time, immediately shut down. There were no injuries or damage, and the platform was available for normal operations within half an hour."

Heart attack kills Nigeria's defiant dictator



Abacha: pariah

GENERAL SANI Abacha, the Nigerian dictator who turned his country into an international pariah, died of a heart attack yesterday. He was 54; few will regret his passing at a relatively early age.

General Abacha was not partial to democracy. When Moshood Abiola was the rightful winner of presidential elections in 1993, General Abacha had him jailed for treason.

In 1995, Nigeria defied the Commonwealth by hanging the writer and environmental campaigner Ken Saro-Wiwa. Nige-

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

ria was suspended from the Commonwealth as a result and threatened with expulsion.

Theoretically at least, the dictator's death paves the way for Nigeria to return to the community of nations. Opposition protests have been growing in recent months. One person is reported to have died and 60 were arrested during protests last week in connection with the anniversary of the unexplained death two years ago of the wife of Moshood Abiola.

This Friday will mark the fifth anniversary of Abacha's military takeover. Even before Abacha's death, large protests were planned.

Abacha's death does not mean that democracy is automatically on the horizon. His surviving colleagues in the junta will be keen to ensure that power remains in their hands. But the protests against military rule now seem likely to grow.

According to Muslim custom, Abacha must be buried within 24 hours. According to

some reports, he was buried immediately yesterday, after his death in the early hours. Large numbers of soldiers sealed off his residence early yesterday, though the official announcement of the death came only in the evening.

There had been many rumours in recent weeks about Abacha's ill health. He failed to turn up to a special function in Lagos last week. He has made few public appearances since greeting the Pope in March.

Abacha had pledged to hand the government over to an

elected administration. But few believed his promises: in April, he became the only candidate for the presidency. The question of succession is unclear.

Robin Cook last night issued a statement on behalf of the EU presidency: "We hope that following the death of General Abacha, there will be an opening for a stable transition to an early return to democracy with the election of an accountable civilian government, which will restore and respect human rights."

Power vacuum, page 13



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A £143m education spending package failed to avert a backbench revolt.

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Merger fever hit the US after two banks announced a \$35bn deal.

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SPORT

Howard Kendall is expected to be dismissed as manager of Everton.

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Lawrence officer 'unreliable'

The chairman of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry declared a former high-flying police officer an unreliable witness with little credibility. Page 4

Mother flees Billie-Jo trial

The mother of murdered teenager Billie-Jo Jenkins fled the court where her daughter's murder trial was being heard as video evidence of the killing was shown. Page 5

Prince sparks genetics row

A row sparked by the attack by the Prince of Wales on genetically modified foods and crops intensified yesterday as biotechnology companies hit back. Page 9

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US 'used nerve gas' in Laos

The United States used deadly nerve gas in top secret operations during the Vietnam War, CNN and Time Magazine reported yesterday. Page 12

Jewish settlers occupy houses

Radical Jewish settlers yesterday took over four houses in the district of Silwan, just outside the city's Ottoman walls, in a growing offensive against Palestinians living in and around the old city of Jerusalem. Page 13

BUSINESS NEWS
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Power stations under threat

More than a dozen gas-fired power stations are facing the axe as part of the Government's plans to secure the future of the coal industry. Page 18

WH Smith in internet deal

WH Smith's is paying \$9.4m for The Internet Bookshop, a three year old on-line bookseller which recorded a \$406,000 loss last year. Page 19

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Test match ends in a draw

The First Test between England and South Africa ended in a draw when rain wiped out the final day's play at Edgbaston. Pages 26, 32

Blatter wins top Fifa post

Lennart Johansson delivered a savage attack on the Football Association after he was beaten by Sepp Blatter in the election for the presidency of Fifa, the world game's governing body. Page 31

TUESDAY REVIEW
24-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Andreas Whittam Smith

I say two things to government ministers. Look past the statistics and comparisons with other countries to what is really going on around you. Comment, Page 3

Health

My main worry about mobile phones is not noise. It is that they may damage the brain. Oliver James, Page 13

Media

The Observer in the "300s" is the newspaper equivalent of Manchester City in the second division. Peter Cole, Page 15

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Cryptic crossword, section one, page 32

TODAY sees a substantial change in the appearance and format of *The Independent*. As well as changing the typeface of our headlines (to a face called Modern 880) and text (to News 706), we are introducing a series of improvements that will make *The Independent* much better value for money. In this, the news section, we are building on our established strengths by giving more space to home and foreign news, expanding the business pages and, to reflect that this is a rather busy time in the world of sport, we will be delivering nine pages of sport every day.

Similarly, in our new broadsheet daily review section, we are expanding those areas in which we know our readers have a keen interest: comment, analysis, the arts, media, health, education, law and information technology. To our established, formidable team of columnists (which includes Suzanne Moore,

David Aaronovitch, Donald Macintyre, Hamish Macrae and Andreas Whittam Smith), we are adding, among others, Ken Livingstone, Howard Jacobson and Pargal Keane. There is more space for letters, obituaries, listings and lifestyle-related features. There will be new regular columns, and the return of some old favourites. Some of

our regular features will move (see page 2 of the review) and we ask for your forbearance. We certainly feel you will appreciate the improvements throughout the paper - among them, for instance, a page of reports from parliament, a daily law report and a horse racing service second to none. It is, we feel, a much-improved package, and represents the first stage in a significant investment in *The Independent* by the newspaper's owners, Independent Newspapers. We hope you like the new paper. We know you'll let us have your views.

Doctors' new oath looks to rationing

SIR KENNETH Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, has proposed a new version of the Hippocratic oath which would require doctors to accept responsibility for health-care rationing for the first time.

The updated version of the oath which has provided an ethical touchstone for 2,500 years would commit doctors to serving "individual patients and the community", acknowledging the tension between their needs.

In a key passage it says: "I will recognise that the decisions I make will have consequences for the patient, the community and for resources."

Until now, a pillar of the medical relationship has been the assumption that doctors would do their best for each patient that came before them, regardless of the cost.

Sir Kenneth's version, which he describes as a "very personal re-interpretation" of the original, is at odds with ministerial pronouncements which have sought to distance the Government from any mention of rationing.

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, has repeatedly insisted that the task facing the National Health Service is to prioritise cases and iron out inequalities in care, not to ration resources.

Yesterday, Sir Kenneth said: "The idea that doctors should be concerned with resources at all used to be greeted with real hostility. That has changed. There is now a much clearer recognition that doctors have responsibility for resources."

Asked if this meant doctors had to be involved in rationing, he said: "I wouldn't interpret it that way. It is the responsibility of doctors to use the resources they have wisely and that is bound to lead to tensions between the needs of individual patients and the good of the population as a whole."

Last night, leading doctors rejected this view. Dr Peter Holden, a GP and member of the British Medical Association's council said: "The Chief Medical Officer is an agent of

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

the Government and my worry is that he is trying to bounce us into taking responsibility for rationing.

"Rationing has to be a whole community decision. We could never swear an oath that put us at the mercy and whim of whatever government happened to be in power."

Dr Holden said that doctors should always tell patients if the NHS could not afford to provide all the options for treatment rather than choosing the less expensive one on their behalf. "We must tell patients the whole truth. We must never be led into subterfuge," he said.

The original Hippocratic oath, which was last updated in 1948, says that doctors must respect life, keep patients' confidences and refrain from sex with them, but it disallows abortion. Beginning "I swear by Apollo the physician...", it is widely recognised to be outdated, but attempts to improve it have failed.

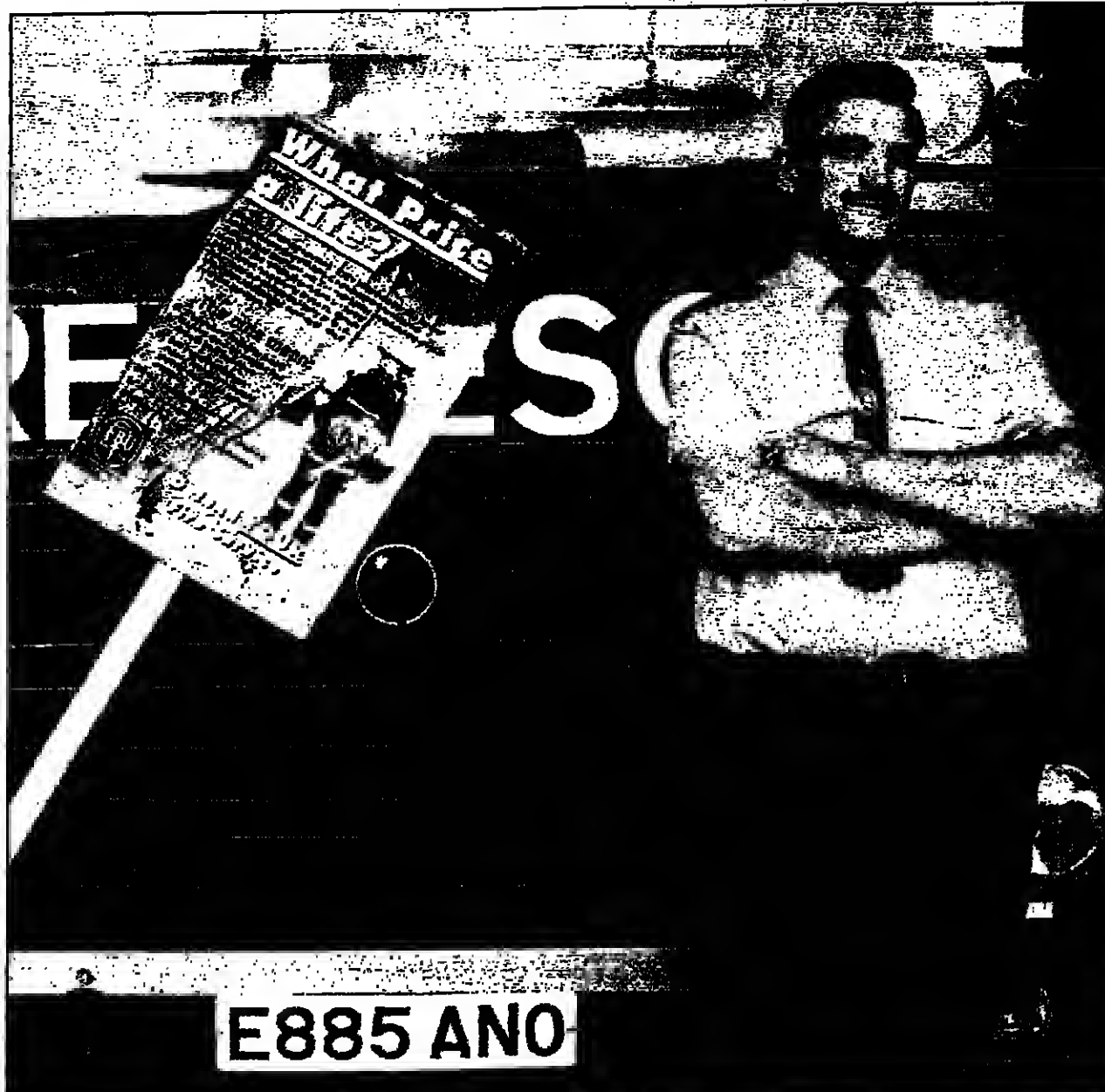
The BMA drew up a new version last year, at the request of the World Medical Association, but it was voted down by the association's annual meeting for being too long and boring.

Sir Kenneth's version appears in *The Potential for Health*, a collection of his writings published this month by Oxford University Press.

He says that the new oath "identifies one of the crucial tensions - care for the patient versus responsibility for the community."

He adds in an earlier section: "A doctor who spends two hours with one patient cannot spend these hours with another. Similarly, if a sum of money is spent on one patient it will not be available for another. Resources are, and always have been, finite."

"The classical dilemma for the doctor is how to do the best for one patient without disadvantaging another. The fact that this is difficult must not mean that doctors abdicate their responsibilities."



Graham Miles, of Basildon Fire Service, who with other Essex firefighters went on strike yesterday in protest against job cuts; Green Goddesses, manned by the military, stood in for the fire engines. Stefan Rousseau/PA

Rail staff vote to strike after snubbing 'low cost' pay deal

RAIL PASSENGERS face cancelled services and longer train trips later this month because of a series of strikes by maintenance workers.

Leaders of the Rail Maritime and Transport (RMT) union said its members will strike for four days from June 19 and for seven days from June 29. Maintenance staff acted after private companies refused to meet their demands over pay and conditions.

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the RMT, accused the engineering firms of asking for "too much in return for too little compensation" under proposals to restructure pay and conditions.

The decision to strike was taken yesterday by the union's executive after more than 9,000 union members - out of a possible 13,000 - voted in favour of industrial action during earlier ballots.

BY RANDEEP RAMESH
Transport Correspondent

Mr Knapp said there was no doubt the strikes would have a "considerable impact" on train services. "The RMT is determined that privatisation is not going to mean exploitation."

Railway privatisation saw the rail network sliced up and sold off to the private sector. The British Rail Infrastructure Services was no exception and unions fear the nine companies that maintain the nation's railway system will cut many of the benefits staff enjoyed under state control.

The RMT says the companies, which include engineering companies Jarvis and Balfour Beatty, are being greedy. Union officials pointed out they made a combined profit of £300m last year - yet wanted a restructuring deal at the lowest cost. Some workers will lose up to

£40 a week despite being forced to work more unsociable hours, according to the union. The RMT argued its members were entitled to pay rises, a 35-hour week and improved sick pay and holiday arrangements in return for accepting the new terms.

Workers involved in the dispute maintain track and equipment including signals, sleepers, rails, and overhead equipment.

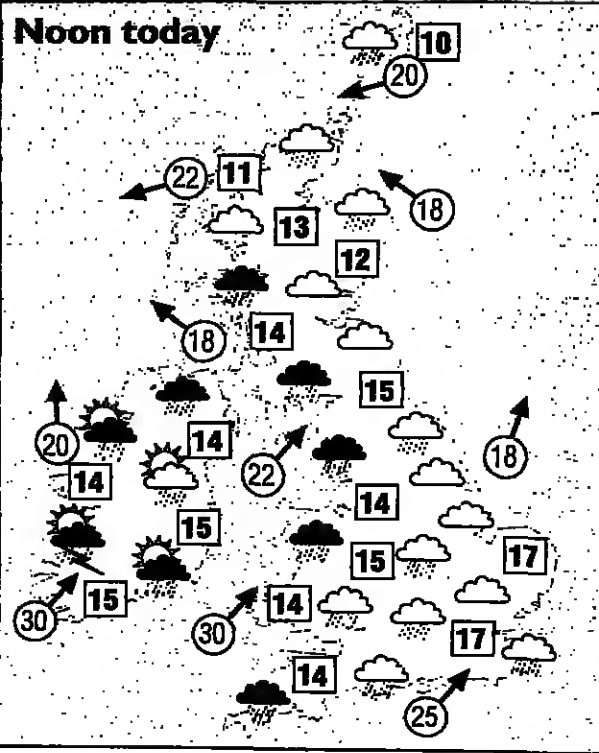
"RMT has no problem with the principle for change, but our members are not going to be whipping boys while Railtrack and the maintenance companies walk away with massive profits," said Mr Knapp.

Mr Knapp told a news conference yesterday there will be an immediate effect on services when the strike starts which will become "progressively worse". As the dispute drags on, experts say, more sections of track will have speed restrictions placed on them as vital engineering work is not completed.

Railtrack, the company that hires maintenance staff to work on the nation's rail network, expected the impact to be "minimal to begin with". "We are disappointed that the union has felt it necessary to take strike action, with its inherent threat to the travelling public."

■ Traffic slowed to a crawl yesterday as a lorry drivers' protest and a serious accident blocked routes. There were long tailbacks on the M6 in the West Midlands, and delays in Kent and central London, as truckers protested about the level of duty imposed on diesel fuel in Britain. A 15-mile stretch of the M5 in north Gloucestershire was shut after a lorry hit a bridge near Tewkesbury, killing the driver.

BRITAIN TODAY



General situation: Eastern Scotland will start dry but heavy rain in the south and west will sweep north to affect most parts, although rain in the far north will die out for a time. In western Scotland the rain will turn to heavy showers and sunny spells. Rain in Northern Ireland, western England and Wales will clear to blustery showers for the afternoon. Eastern and southern England will be mainly cloudy with a spell of heavy rain clearing to blustery showers for the evening.

NEXT FEW DAYS

Wednesday will be showery everywhere. The showers will be heavy at times in the north and west and some of the showers will be accompanied by thunder and hail. There will still be showers around on Thursday but many areas will see dry spells with sunny spells although there will be a chilly north-westerly breeze. There will be rain in south-west England and southern Wales on Friday but elsewhere will be dry with sunny spells.

LIGHTING UP TIMES

Belfast	21:57	to	04:49
Birmingham	21:28	to	04:45
Bristol	21:25	to	04:54
Glasgow	22:00	to	04:33
London	21:16	to	04:44
Manchester	21:36	to	04:41
Newcastle	21:42	to	04:29

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	02:06	6.5	14:24	6.8
Liverpool	11:39	8.7	23:56	9.0
Southampton	07:28	12.2	19:49	12.5
Full moon	06:41	8.2	19:00	8.1
Greenwich	-	-	13:01	2.9
Dun Laoghaire	12:03	3.7	00:14	3.8

AIR QUALITY

	Today's readings	Two days ago
London	Good	Good
S. England	Good	Low/Mod
Wales	Good	Low
C. England	Good	Low/Mod
N. England	Good	Low
Scotland	Good	Low
N. Ireland	Good	Low

SUN & MOON

Sun rises	04:44
Sun sets	21:16
Moon rises	20:18
Moon sets	04:45
Full moon	June

WEATHERLINE

	Today's readings	Yesterday's readings
London	16.0	15.0
S. England	15.0	14.0
Wales	14.0	13.0
C. England	13.0	12.0
N. England	12.0	11.0
Scotland	11.0	10.0
N. Ireland	10.0	9.0

YESTERDAY

BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

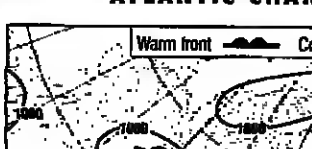
Aberdeen	C	11	52
Anglesey	R	12	54
Armagh	R	11	50
Belfast	R	11	52
Birmingham	R	15	59
Blackpool	R	13	55
Bournemouth	R	14	57
Brighton	C	15	59
Bristol	C	14	57
Cardiff	C	13	55
Carlisle	C	12	54
Dover	C	17	63
Edinburgh	C	13	55
Exeter	R	14	57
Glasgow	R	11	52
Gloucester	R	14	57
Inverness	C	11	52
Isle of Wight	C	18	64
Isles of Scilly	R	15	59
Jersey	C	16	61
Liverpool	R	13	55
London	R	15	59
Manchester	R	13	55
Newcastle	C	14	57
Nottingham	R	14	57
Oxford	R	14	57
Southampton	C	16	61
Southend	R	15	59
Stornoway	C	11	52
York	R	13	55

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

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THE WORLD

ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



THE WORLD YESTERDAY

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WE LEAVE EVERYONE STANDING BUT YOU



The Rolling Stones - from left, Charlie Watts, Ronnie Wood, Keith Richards and Mick Jagger - say that tough new tax laws drove them to cancel their British tour dates

Kevin Mazur/AP

'Killer' cleared after 23-year wait

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

A MAN who has spent 23 years in jail for murdering a pensioner will have his case quashed this week, ending one of the worst ever miscarriages of justice.

Paddy Nicholls, 69, will be cleared at the Court of Appeal on Friday after new evidence showed that the woman he was convicted of killing most likely died of natural causes.

The *Independent* has learned that Mr Nicholls' appeal will not be contested by the Crown. His 23-year prison term is by far the longest to be served by a person wrongly convicted. He could have been released earlier, but has always refused to admit his guilt.

Mr Nicholls said yesterday that he felt "sad" and "extremely bitter" that he had spent more than a third of his life in prison for a crime he did not commit.

He was released on bail in March following the presentation of new evidence rubbishing the original pathologists' conclusions that the "victim", Gladys Heath, had been beaten and suffocated.



Paddy Nicholls: 'Bitter'

Mr Nicholls was convicted of the murder of Mrs Heath, a 74-year-old family friend, whom he found slumped on the floor of her home in Worthing, Sussex, in 1975. She had suffered a stroke and had recently had a toe amputated.

He always maintained that he found her in that condition, but two pathologists - Dr Hugh Johnson and Professor J M Cameron, both now dead - concluded that she had died of a heart attack after being suffocated and severely beaten on the face.

However, a review of the evidence by Professor John Crane, an Irish state pathologist, in a report to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, concluded: "I cannot agree with either Dr Johnson or Professor Cameron that this woman sustained severe facial injuries as the result of an assault."

There is no evidence... that suffocation played a part in her death." A key prosecution witness who testified Mr Nicholls had admitted his guilt in prison later retracted his statement, admitting he had lied.

Mr Nicholls told *The Independent*: "I have had a terrible time trying to cope with things since I got out. I feel extremely bitter and sad. It was 23 years of my life. You try and do your best in life, but now I have nothing." Mr Nicholls will be entitled to compensation expected to total hundreds of thousands of pounds. Previously the longest serving victim of a miscarriage of justice was Judith Ward who spent 18 years in jail for an IRA bombing she did not commit.

Stony-hearted taxman gives Jagger and Co no satisfaction

THE GOVERNMENT, despite its campaign to woo the music industry, yesterday went on the offensive against Britain's best-known band, the Rolling Stones.

As the group confirmed that they were cancelling their concerts in Britain this summer for tax reasons, Treasury sources joined fans in reacting with disbelief at the decision.

But in fact, Mick Jagger, who was being ridiculed with gusto yesterday by government MPs, privately wanted the shows to go on. In heated backstage arguments he was defeated by two of his fellow band members - Charlie Watts and Ronnie Wood - who stood to lose millions of pounds in retrospective tax claims. Jagger is rich enough to stomach the tax loss, and Keith Richards is now an American citizen and does not even pay tax in Britain.

The four fiftysomething Stones devoted their monthly group meeting to matters fiscal exactly one month ago, in the middle of their world tour.

A technician on the tour had complained to Jagger that his accountant had told him he would face a retrospective tax demand following Labour's last budget. The roadie was aggrieved because he and his 200 backstage colleagues - from roadies to hairdressers to drivers - had all been assured by the group that being on the road for a year would exempt them from paying British tax. It was to have been a tax-free year of hard work, maybe, parties, definitely, music and travel. Now, Gordon Brown's tax changes meant that appearing in Britain in 1998 would make them all liable for a retro-

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

spective tax bill on their earnings in America and Europe.

The Stones were sympathetic. They felt guilty that they had unintentionally misled their crew. And they began to worry about their own fortunes. Their own accountants had already mentioned the tax law changes to them; but the plight of their 200 staff now brought it home.

They could claim, their financial advisers told them, that the British

leg of the tour would now lose £12m instead of making a profit. Keith Richards knew that his own wallet would not be affected. Jagger could bear the loss. But Charlie Watts and Ronnie Wood were furious. They urged postponing the British concerts until the following tax year.

Jagger, anticipating the fans' reaction and the political fallout, argued vigorously against it, but was outvoted. He swallowed hard, knowing he would inevitably be the band's spokesman when the news broke and he would face the obloquy.

The Stones' management informed the venues and promoters and briefed one newspaper on the unfairness to the tour crew of a retrospective tax bill. The press jumped on a story showing yet another failure of Tony Blair's Cool Britannia wooing of the music industry. OK, the Stones have not been cool for a few years, but they are still rock'n'roll, and their attack on the Treasury is embarrassing.

The Government was quick to hit back. Sources said that they were not prepared to be "lectured on tax by

tax exiles" and warned that they were ready to draw unflattering comparisons between the Stones and other groups who were happy to play in the UK this summer.

The Tories, meanwhile, decided to use Jagger and co to highlight supposed inequities of Labour's fiscal policy. Treasury spokesman David Heathcoat-Amory claimed: "It shows how shortsighted the government policy is, as it will hit British fans and prevent them from seeing a British band performing in their own country."

The Tories' culture spokesman, Richard Spring, said successful artists who returned to Britain under the Conservatives would now consider not playing here.

But not everyone saw it as polite to be a Stones fan. The Liberal Democrat MP Norman Baker - improbably enough a lead singer in a rock band himself - turned on them. The Lewes MP - who fronts an occasional rock band called the Reform Club - said: "I think it's outrageous that they're setting so much store on their tax returns. It shows they are clapped-out capitalists."

Who are these bands that the Treasury might use as examples to shame the Stones? The main one is likely to be the Spice Girls, young enough to be the Stones' daughters. Also on a world tour, they have already played British gigs and will be playing again at Wembley Stadium in September.

Yesterday, tax experts seemed to think the Stones had a point. John Whiting, of the accountants Price Waterhouse, said it was the tour crew who were being hit. He added: "This tax break has been cancelled retrospectively, and that is unreasonable."

Gary Jackson, of the celebrity accountants Arram Beryn Gardner, added: "There will not be a huge exodus, but any major star organising a worldwide tour may well look to become non-resident in the UK." Until the Budget on 17 March, Britons who lived and worked abroad for more than a year were exempt from British taxes on their earnings, as long as they did not spend more than 62 days in this country.

Business Outlook, page 19

TAX EXILES ON MAIN STREET: ROCK STARS AND THE REVENUE

	David Bowie	Spice Girls	Phil Collins	Pink Floyd	Oasis
PLACE OF RESIDENCE	David and wife Iman are spoilt for choice with homes in London, New York, Bermuda and Switzerland.	Remain devotedly near their respective Mamas, be they in Essex, Leeds or Liverpool.	£15m mansion overlooks Lake Geneva in Switzerland.	Guitarist David Gilmour sings the song Money with feeling. The garage of his London home cost £90,000.	Liam and Noel have forsaken their Manchester roots, but can't face a lagerless tax exile. They live in London.
EARNINGS	Estimated to be worth £100m. This figure has been fuelled by Bowie's decision to sell shares in his back catalogue.	Estimated at £4m each a year. At present some of that money is paying the lawyers negotiating Geri's departure.	Worth about £115m. He paid himself over £50m in six years up to 1992 - a rate of £818-a-day.	In 1994 the band earned an estimated £55m in less than six months in America.	Total earnings to the beginning of last year were estimated at £41m, with £25m coming in from 1996 alone.
TOURS	A world tour is expected next year with Ziggy Stardust rumoured to be making a glam comeback.	The current tour is their first (and the last according to older cynics).	Delights middle England every couple of years, and regularly appears at charity and benefit gigs.	Rarely. It takes some years to amass enough merchandising to fill the Earl's Court foyer.	Liam tends to start more tours than he finishes. But the band appear virtually every year.
TAX SITUATION	Spends very little time in Britain. Future world tours will be affected by the Labour tax changes.	Their tour has straddled similar dates to The Stones. But they have fewer backstage hairdressers.	A tax exile, but future world tours will have to straddle the tax years carefully to avoid the Inland Revenue.	Their finances are as opaque as some of their lyrics. Could yet have Stones style battles with revenue.	With Liam storming out on last American outing they have not put together a long enough tour to worry the Revenue.

MacKenzie leaves Mirror amid talk of radio bid

KELVIN MACKENZIE, the notorious former editor of the *Sun* newspaper, has left his job as deputy chief executive of Mirror Group Newspapers after just five months.

He is believed to have left in order to head up a bid for the commercial radio station Talk Radio. Mr MacKenzie, 52, was brought in by Mirror chief executive, David Montgomery, to work on the cable channel Live TV! but was promoted to run the *Mirror's* newspaper operations in January. Mr MacKenzie

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Correspondent

was supposed to oversee an investment in journalism at the *Mirror* to give the newspaper a slightly more serious look.

National station Talk Radio has been on the market since its major shareholder the Luxembourg media group CLF-UFA announced that it would sell all its UK radio stations earlier this year.

A source at Talk Radio said yes-

terday that there had been a number of bids for the station but that no decision had yet been made. Bidders are believed to include the US broadcaster Jancor Communications and the regional rolling news station London News Radio.

Talk Radio has been struggling to make money since its launch in 1995 because of the size of its cash bid to win its national speech radio licence.

There has been speculation about Mr MacKenzie's future since it was revealed two weeks ago that the Ger-

man publishing giant Axel Springer is considering a take-over bid for the media group.

Axel Springer, publisher of Germany's biggest selling tabloid, *Bild*, is run by Gus Fischer, a former boss of Mr MacKenzie during his time at the *Sun*. The two are believed to have had strained relations in the past. City advisers said yesterday they would mark down the value of Mirror Group without Mr MacKenzie as part of the management.

Mr MacKenzie is known to have

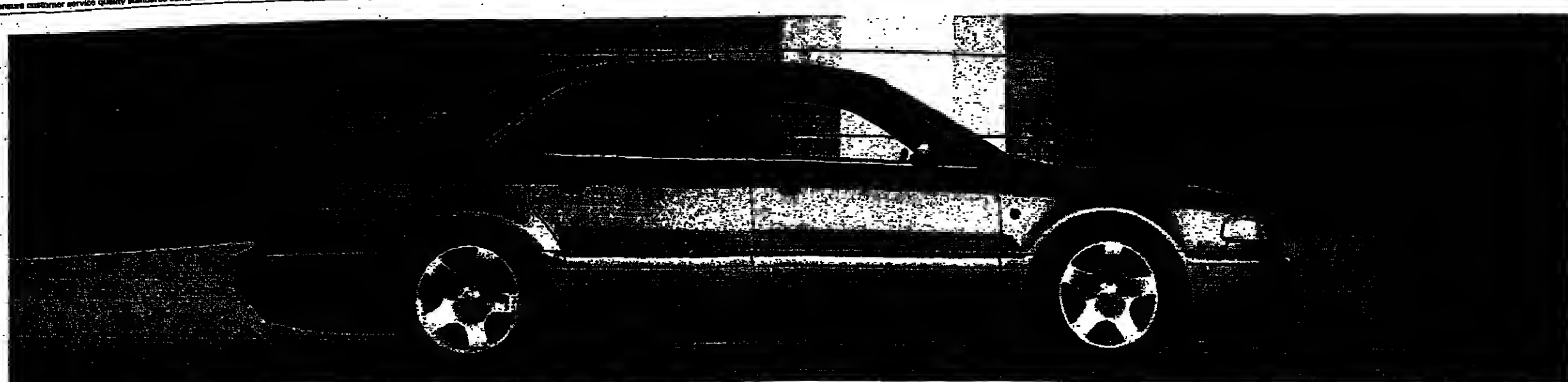
requested the sale documents on Talk Radio some months ago and is now thought to be part of another consortium.

"He has been chillingly happy recently," said an executive on the *Mirror* yesterday. "He has always said he wanted to get back into broadcasting."

While at the *Sun*, the former *South East London Mercury* reporter became infamous for his brand of xenophobic and homophobic journalism. His style was best il-

lustrated by his headline used after the loss of 368 lives in the sinking of the *Belgrano* during the Falklands War: *Gotcha!*

He attracted equal opprobrium and cost the *Sun* 200,000 sales worth an estimated £10m in Merseyside after the Hillsborough disaster when the newspaper ran a story headlined 'The Truth' which claimed: "Some fans picked pockets of victims. Some fans urinated on the brave cops. Some fans beat up PC giving kiss of life."



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'Yes, my language is robust. It's how I get the message across to the Left'

A tough approach gets results, says the Deputy Prime Minister. Interview by Colin Brown

JOHN PRESCOTT was in a forgiving mood. Sitting in the back of his red ministerial Jaguar en route from his Hull home to Heathrow airport, the Deputy Prime Minister conceded he may have gone slightly over the top when he accused one of Tony Blair's advisers of being a "teenybopper".

He had been unfair to Geoff Norris, a member of the Downing Street policy unit, who had described his transport White Paper as being too "anti-car". Mr Prescott conceded that the adviser to the Prime Minister had been right about the early draft of his White Paper. "I think the incident was a little unfair to Geoff Norris. I tend to use language which epitomises a mood. I mean Geoffrey is 40-odd... We did have a bit of a laugh about it afterwards."

"Perhaps the language is a bit robust really but it's one of those ways that I make my point, so the Left pick up the message. It's another expression like 'beautiful people' - some of them were quite ugly really. It's part of my humour, which is an important part of my political personality. It's not meant to be personally offensive, but 'beautiful people' did identify a mood, and it became part of the political language."

Motorists who see Mr Prescott as the Oppressor in the Red Jag may also feel relieved that he has now toned down the much-heralded, and delayed, White Paper.

As the car squeezed through the narrow back-streets around the British Museum, in central London, he was still brimming with ideas: asset-stripping to produce more money for more investment; an idea for building a bus lane along the M25 from Heathrow to Gatwick; a plan to let the breakdown services use the hard shoulder to reach stranded motorists, particularly women at risk.

Through a three-hour conversation, he repeatedly spoke of his "warm" relations with Gordon Brown. There is an important alliance which has been formed at the heart of the Government, which is only just beginning to bear fruit. He



John Prescott: 'I believe if you get it right in the first 12 months, and it's good, it's easier to live with'

John Voos

speaks regularly to Tony Blair but the Deputy Prime Minister's deals with the Chancellor could be making doubting "teenyboppers" in the City sit up and take note that the former cruise liner bar steward, who celebrated his 60th birthday last week, has come of age.

We were travelling to Heathrow from Mr Prescott's home in east Hull - a former Salvation Army hostel that cost £28,000 in the 1970s and is known locally as Prescott's Castle. He was going to the airport to take Concorde to New York, and arranged to go by car to fit our interview into his schedule. At the moment, it is still petrol-driven; he is still awaiting delivery of a gas-powered V8 version.

Should someone who is supposed to be at the helm of the green revolution be in a car, and taking Concorde? Mr Prescott is not talking about banning the car. He wants to reduce its use where possible, but he is realistic; the British love affair with the car will not be broken until there are better alternatives.

He thinks it is risible for the Conservatives to attack him for being "anti-car" as he is using ideas such as congestion-charging and tolling on motorways which the Tories set in train. He is more concerned at their claims that it will hit mothers on the "school run".

Mr Prescott is anxious to nullify that charge, and is looking at safer

routes to school for children, including an experiment in Leicester where a bridge over a railway led to a big increase in children cycling, or more investment in school buses. "All these cars parked outside schools is quite dangerous for children. The question is, can we meet their demand in a different way?"

"I think there is a lot to be done with getting people who take the normal journey to work, out just the school. The DVLA have 4,000 workers and three-quarters are women; they can travel by flex-hours that allows them to drop the kids off, do the shopping and pick the kids back up again."

He seemed more at ease with

himself after a year in government. His only complaint is that he is putting on weight; he is powerfully built, although only 5ft 7inches in height, and has decided to shed some pounds; there is a set of scales in the boot - part of an attempt to stop his snacking.

Despite his gruelling schedule - last Friday it was Spain, yesterday it was New York, today it will be Question Time in the Commons - he feels that "exhilaration" is winning out over the tiredness that comes with office. "It was part of my judgement at the beginning that all my efforts would be going into getting the footings in because I believe if you get it right in the first 12 months, and

it's good, it's easier to live with. If you get it wrong, you have to live with the reputation of the bad first year."

The City, like some of his friends, underestimated him. Clare Short told him with blunt honesty in the leadership election that people would not vote for him as leader because they could not see him handling Prime Minister's questions. After a year in office, he believes most people have revised their view about him, but not all. Mr Prescott was still bristling over the City Journalist who questioned how someone who was once a steward could have put together the London and Continental Railways deal which rescued the Channel Tunnel link.

Pay-out to victimised woman inspector

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

A WOMAN police inspector who claimed her career was ruined by sexual harassment yesterday won an apology and compensation in an out-of-court settlement.

Lincolnshire Police are thought to have paid Dena Fleming up to £50,000 after a two-year legal battle. Inspector Fleming, 39, claimed that a "whispering campaign" began after she spurned one officer's sexual advances and gave another a poor appraisal.

She was suspended on full pay for more than two years after putting a tape recorder in her locker to catch alleged offenders. She eventually sued her force for sexual harassment.

In February an industrial tribunal ruled against her claims of sex discrimination but said she had been victimised after making them and ordered that all disciplinary charges should be dropped.

Lincolnshire Police formally agreed terms as the case was due to be heard at an industrial tribunal in Nottingham yesterday.

Both sides have agreed not to comment on the case as part of the undisclosed compensation settlement but, as part of the deal, a letter from Lincolnshire's new Chief Constable, Richard Childs, was released yesterday.

It said: "I give an assurance that the issues which have arisen are being addressed as a matter of urgency. The Lincolnshire Police are sorry for any distress caused to you."

In March Inspector Fleming was reinstated and moved to the Humberside force where her husband Max was a constable. All disciplinary charges were dropped, but Inspector Fleming is understood to have claimed for hurt feelings and potential loss of earnings as she was unable to apply for promotion during her suspension.

An investigation into Lincolnshire's handling of the case - carried out by Humberside Chief Constable Tony Leonard - has never been made public.

A press statement issued yesterday said it was the Lincolnshire Chief Constable's intention to ensure that no officer in the future would experience distress as suffered by Inspector Fleming.

Lawrence officer's credibility attacked

THE CHAIRMAN of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry interrupted the evidence of a former high-flying police officer yesterday to declare him an unreliable witness with little credibility.

Sir William Macpherson of Cluny also dismissed an internal review of the Lawrence murder investigation undertaken by the officer, former Detective Chief Superintendent Roderick Barker, as "indefensible".

The review concluded that the conduct of the investigation had been satisfactory and that all lines of inquiry had been correctly pursued. It was cited for four years by the highest-ranking Metropolitan Police officers as proof that detectives did all they could to catch Stephen's killers.

Sir William, a former High Court judge, made his unexpected intervention after the public inquiry into Stephen's death was told that Mr Barker was chosen for the review because he was regarded as "the crème de la crème" by Sir Paul

BY KATHY MARKS

Coodon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

Sir William said he and his advisers had carefully considered Mr Barker's evidence to the inquiry. "We feel it necessary and right that we should say, in our view, his value as a witness and his credibility in vital matters has already been much undermined, for reasons which will be perfectly obvious for anyone here today," he said. "Our present view... is that we feel we ought to indicate that this review is likely to be regarded by us as indefensible, for what must be obvious reasons."

He suggested to lawyers representing the various parties that further questioning of Mr Barker, who retired last year, would be a waste of time. Stephen Lawrence, an A-level student, was stabbed to death in a racist attack by a white gang in Effingham, south-east London, in April 1993.

A lengthy catalogue of serious errors and omissions by the

murder squad has been outlined to the public inquiry over the past 10 weeks, including an admission by senior officers that they could have made arrests within 48 hours.

The inquiry heard yesterday that the contents of Mr Barker's review, which was carried out in autumn 1993, were approved by Sir Paul and the area assistant commissioner, Ian Johnston.

Mr Johnston defended the murder investigation after Stephen's inquest in February 1997, saying he believed that "right from the start we did all we could".

High-ranking officers continued to maintain this stance until a scathing report by the Police Complaints Authority last December.

The PCA report criticised Mr Barker's review for failing to give fresh impetus to the investigation by identifying mistakes and lost opportunities. It said that the reassurance that it gave to senior detectives was "ultimately highly damaging".

Earlier yesterday, Mr Barker

agreed with Stephen Kamlish, counsel for the Lawrence family, that he was handicapped for the review because he was "one of the Met's best". Mr Kamlish said: "From the Commissioner downwards, you were a trusted, high-flying officer."

Your career background reads like the perfect police officer's CV. You have been head of the Flying Squad, head of major crime in north-west London, involved in 200 murder inquiries. You were the crème de la crème, Mr Barker, as considered by the Commissioner and other officers."

Mr Barker denied that his review had been "a whitewash". But he agreed that when he was briefed by his superiors, he was told "not to upset or undermine" senior detectives.

Stephen's father, Neville, said after yesterday's hearing: "It has now been made clear that the review is a complete and utter cover-up. I want to know who is going to accept responsibility for this cover-up."

The inquiry continues today.

'Cosmopolitan' turns to TV

THE WORLD'S number one women's magazine, *Cosmopolitan*, is to be made over as a television channel.

Targeting upmarket twenty-something women, the *Cosmopolitan* channel, is due to launch in Brazil later this year as a "test-bed". Plans are in place for the channel to come to Europe and the UK within two years.

Cosmo's pioneering agenda of relationships, orgasms and careers, which kicked off the modern women's glossy market in the early Seventies, will be reflected in the content of the channel. It will be a mix of new and bought-in programmes which will "capture the

BY JANINE GIBSON
Media Correspondent

essence" of *Cosmopolitan*, according to a senior executive.

Regulations governing "masthead television" preventing magazine title spin-off shows from terrestrial television have recently been relaxed by the Independent Television Commission (ITC). However, guidelines still prevent the televising of specific editorial features from a publication, so a channel will have to reflect the magazine rather than copy it.

Cosmopolitan's United States parent company, the Hearst Corporation, already owns a string of channels

through its television division, Hearst Entertainment. The television arm operates an animation channel and owns stakes in two US cable channels, Arts and Entertainment and the History Channel. The UK *Cosmopolitan* channel is likely to be available as part of a digital television package.

Launched in the UK in 1972, *Cosmopolitan* is the largest selling women's magazine in the world. National Magazine Company, which publishes the UK version, says it reaches more than 25 million women globally each month.

Terry Mansfield, chief executive of the National Magazine Company, said: "Compared to

other publishers, we are in a very fortunate position as the Hearst Corporation is so heavily involved in television already. We don't have to strike deals with production companies to get our titles on air. You could see a *Cosmopolitan* channel in the UK within two years."

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Billie-Jo's mother flees court in tears



Debbie Woods, mother of the murdered teenager Billie-Jo Jenkins, at Lewes Crown Court yesterday

Leigh Green

THE mother of the murdered teenager Billie-Jo Jenkins fled the court where her daughter's murder trial was being heard yesterday as video evidence of the killing was shown.

Debbie Woods was shepherded in tears from Lewes Crown Court, East Sussex, as close-up footage revealed the extent of the injuries inflicted on her foster daughter.

Sion Jenkins, Billie-Jo's foster father, who is accused of her murder, had already asked to be excused and was returned to court cells before the video was shown.

Members of the jury at Lewes Crown Court looked visibly shocked at the four minutes of footage showing Billie-Jo's body on the patio of the family's home in Hastings, East Sussex. One woman juror was unable to watch the tape and two others were close to tears.

The teenager's natural father, Bill Jenkins, who is no relation to Sion, left the court before the video evidence was shown following a warning from the judge, Mr Justice Gage, that it might prove distressing.

The jury heard yesterday that the surgeon called to examine the body considered the murder the most brutal he had encountered. Dr Zbigniew Ludwig, a Sussex police surgeon, said

BY LOUISE JURY

in a statement: "I have had 26 years' experience as a police surgeon, and this was ... the saddest and most brutal murder I've ever attended."

Billie-Jo, 13, was killed as she painted patio doors at the home of her foster family with whom she had lived for five years. A post-mortem examination showed her skull had been split.

The ambulance men Christopher Burton and Francis Radford said Billie-Jo showed no signs of life when they arrived at the Jenkins' home.

Mr Burton told how, at the scene, he had noticed two damp impressions like footprints nearby. There were also two marks, like the balls of feet, on the front upper thighs of her trousers when her body was turned over. She was found lying face down.

Mr Radford said the paintbrush Billie-Jo had been using to paint the patio doors was still in her hand and a spiked iron bar, the alleged murder weapon, next to her body.

Graham Towse, a neighbour, said Sion Jenkins seemed "calm and a little pale" at the time. But his eldest daughter, Annie, then 12, was "very flustered, very red in the face".

The first police officer to arrive at

the scene described his shock on seeing Billie-Jo's body. Constable Darren Bruce said: "The original call [was] that someone had found their daughter who had had a fall and there was some blood." The scene that greeted him and a colleague at the Jenkins' address "was the last thing we were expecting to find".

He said that standing in the dining room he could see photographs of the four girls in the Jenkins family and also of the teenager whose body lay in front of him on the patio. "It was shocking, horrific," he said.

PC Bruce said Billie-Jo's skull bore a "massive gaping hole going right down through to the brain and pools of blood over her face and hair".

He said Sion Jenkins had told him that he and his eldest daughter, Annie, had left the house shortly before 3pm to collect another daughter, Lottie, from a music lesson. Although the court has heard that Mr Jenkins and his daughters returned to the house straight after the lesson, at the time, Mr Jenkins told PC Bruce that they had not returned until 3.30pm.

It was PC Bruce who broke the news to Jenkins that Billie-Jo was dead. "He appeared stunned when I told him," the constable said. The trial continues.

Former PC in Bermuda killing case

A FORMER British policeman was yesterday charged with manslaughter in Bermuda after the death of his live-in lover a year ago.

Until last week Liz Cadell, a journalist working in Bermuda, was believed to have committed suicide by taking an overdose of 150 extra-strength aspirin.

Tony Bukhari, a former Cheshire police constable, maintains that he thought he had successfully saved her, only to return from an afternoon jog to find her dead.

But on Friday Mr Bukhari, who served in the Cheshire force from 1986 to 1990 before joining the police in Bermuda, was arrested after he refused to co-operate at the inquest into Miss Cadell's death. Pathologists said that Miss Cadell, 33, must have died three hours earlier than Mr Bukhari had claimed.

Mr Bukhari, 31, would not answer questions about his girlfriend's final hours. Miss Cadell, a bright, articulate journalist and keen sports-woman from Newbury, Berkshire, moved to Bermuda in 1988 to work as a reporter. Three years later, she set up home with Mr Bukhari.

Two months before her death she changed her will to make him the sole beneficiary of her £200,000 inheritance. But she died before the change was made legally valid. She had tried to make the alteration before Mr Bukhari called off their wedding when she confessed to having a year-long affair with a colleague on Bermuda's *Royal Gazette* daily.

The inquest was told that Mr Bukhari falsified entries in his police notebook about his activities the night before Miss Cadell died and that he had successfully completed a First Aid course which teaches not to induce vomiting in overdose cases. Mr Bukhari claims that when he found out Miss Cadell

BY CLARE GARNER

had taken an overdose he made her drink salt water to be sick.

Mr Bukhari, who returned to his home near Manchester after Miss Cadell's death, was at Hamilton magistrates court in Bermuda yesterday, where he was charged and granted bail.

Only Mr Bukhari knows what happened on 31 May last year. The inquest was told that he spent the night before Miss Cadell died at the house of an English barmaid who subsequently became his lover. His version of events is that he returned home at 4.30am to find Miss Cadell's naked body and a "goodbye" note. According to police records it read: "I know I've let you down badly... perhaps it is best if I disappear and let you get on with your life."

Mr Bukhari told detectives that he had thrown the note in a rubbish bin and joined Miss Cadell in bed. He said that he woke at about 11am and it was then that Miss Cadell told him she had taken an overdose. He encouraged her to vomit, after which she appeared to recover - so much so that they made love at lunchtime. Then he went jogging, returning an hour and 13 minutes later to find Miss Cadell dead, he claimed.

Mr Bukhari's statement was directly challenged by the first expert witness at the inquest. "The time frame given by Mr Bukhari just doesn't add up," said Dr Valerie Rao, a pathologist with Dade County Medical Examiner's Office in Florida. "If she had been taken to the hospital, she could have survived."

Mr Bukhari's claim that he made love to Miss Cadell at 1pm on the day of her death and left her in apparent good health 30 minutes later could not be true, according to Dr Rao. "She was dead by one o'clock in the afternoon," she said.

Manchester students just the job, say firms

STUDENTS WHO want to improve their chances of a job in business and management should head for Manchester or Warwick universities. For success in accountancy or banking, Manchester is again the place to be, followed by Warwick and Heriot-Watt.

That is the conclusion of a survey of 220 major companies which gave their views on 97 universities in 10 subject areas. For overall employability, the five top universities are Imperial College, London, Aston, Loughborough, Reading and Surrey.

The ratings, drawn up by the Performance Indicator Project, an independent statistical survey, are based on the number of employers who rank a course above average. The subjects covered are sciences, languages, computing and IT, engineering, construction and civil engineering, law, electrical

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

engineering, business and management, social science and economics and finance, accountancy and banking.

Recruiters also rate some departments as below average. In business and management, the bottom universities, in alphabetical order, are Bangor, Buckingham, Central Lancashire, Derbyshire, East London, Lincolnshire and Humberside, Luton, North London and Wolverhampton.

Dr Cliff Pettifor, the project's director, said the survey should be treated with caution. "No university applicant should make or change a decision based on our evidence alone. They should know that their qualities and attainments matter to most recruiters. The university's negative ranking matters, even slightly, to very few," he said.



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Policeman's dismay as widow cleared

THE WIDOW and stepdaughter of a millionaire businessman was yesterday cleared of his murder at the Old Bailey amid extraordinary recommendations between the police and prosecution lawyers.

All charges were dropped against 42-year-old Linda Watson and Amanda London-Williams, 24, yesterday morning before the case started. But prosecutor Julian Bevan, QC, told the court that the senior officer heading the investigation was "appalled" by the decision not to proceed.

The officer, Detective Inspector Nick Siggs, from Sussex CID, revealed outside the court afterwards that the decision by the Crown Prosecution Service had been taken last Friday without the police being consulted. He and his colleagues stressed the hunt will continue for the gunman who had shot and killed 55-year-old Richard Watson at his home in East Grinstead, Sussex, adding that there was a £50,000 reward for information. There will be a case conference between the CPS and the police to review the evidence and the decision not to proceed.

After receiving defence experts' reports last week, the prosecution decided to carry out a reconstruction at the scene with ballistic experts.

Mr Watson, who ran a computer company, was hit by two bullets to the neck and chest as he returned to his £400,000 farmhouse in December 1995. The Crown had claimed it was a carefully organised ambush, the shooting had taken place from the balcony of the house, and the gunman could not have been present without the two women's consent.

After Friday's tests, the Crown said its experts could no longer be certain that the second shot was fired from the balcony and not ground level. Mr Bevan told the

BY KIM SENGUPTA

court "the crux" of the Crown case had been undermined. He continued: "The easy way out... would be to say 'well, let the jury decide'. But I am faced with the single question of realistic prospect of conviction."

In his professional opinion, he added, the answer to that was "no". However, Mr Bevan told Judge Michael Hyam: "The officer in charge of this case strongly disagrees with the decision... that he has used on the telephone to myself over the weekend the word 'appalled'... that saddens me, but being the senior officer he is absolutely entitled to hold a view."

As they left the dock, Ms Watson, a former Miss Arbroath and Miss Scotland runner-up, who was Mr Watson's third wife, put her arm around her daughter. Ms London-Williams had earlier cried when the court was told of her relationship with Mr Watson, who had treated her like his own daughter. Afterwards the two women, both dressed in black, left the court in the company of representatives of a tabloid newspaper to which they are believed to have sold their story. They cannot be charged again for the murder of Mr Watson.

Ms Watson's solicitor, Chris Lewis, said: "She has been appallingly treated. The police have more than sufficient evidence to redirect their inquiries elsewhere. It is not a case where the police are not looking for anyone else."

Det Supt Tim Godwin, the head of Sussex CID, said there were suggestions that Mr Watson's business dealings in Russia may have brought him into conflict with gangsters, but had no evidence of that. Mr Bevan told the court that Ms

Watson stood to inherit around £693,000 from her husband. But Ms Watson's counsel, John Coffey, said there was no will under which Ms Watson would have benefited, nor did she stand to benefit from an insurance policy or the proceeds of the marital home.

Mr Bevan added that Ms Watson at one stage considered divorce as she felt the marriage was not "an equal partnership", and that she had become "more a housewife than a wife". She had been annoyed to learn that Mr Watson planned to leave 51 per cent of his company to his son, Julian, but the couple were said to have reconciled their differences.

On the night of the murder, the court was told earlier by Mr Bevan, Ms London-Williams had heard a gate open, a car coming in, and then her father's voice saying "Get away from me - get away, not again..." Mr Bevan continued: "As she is pulling aside the curtain, she hears a loud bang, and no more from her father. She sees a man in a balaclava carrying a gun, the gun is smoking."

Ms London-Williams went outside and saw her father lying on the ground with blood pouring from her neck. She told her mother, and made 999 calls. The Crown, said Mr Bevan, had considered "odds" in the 999 calls but now accepted that "in this dreadful crime, you would expect [those affected] to be in a severe state of shock."

After the murder, Ms Watson and her daughter moved to a £300,000 property in nearby Lingfield, where they still live. Ms Watson's solicitor, Mr Lewis, said: "She is extremely relieved that the allegations will be pursued no longer, but it is not a cause for celebration because her husband's murderer is still at large."



Linda Watson is kissed by a well wisher prior to the announcement that charges against her were to be dropped. Neville Elder

Eton homes plan angers residents in conservation area

BRITAIN'S MOST famous public school has angered residents of one of the most fashionable areas of London after it announced plans to demolish a Victorian cottage and coach house and replace them with luxury mock-Georgian accommodation.

Eton College, which has owned the plot of land on which the buildings are sited since 1449, has lodged an application with Camden Council in north London to knock down the cottage and build three houses.

The plot, at the corner of Eton Road and Provost Road in Belsize

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

Park, is one of the last fragments of a swathe of land given to the college by Henry VI 500 years ago.

Mona Brearley, who lives next door with her husband, the former England cricket captain Mike Brearley, has written to all local residents asking them to join a campaign against the plans. The actors Bob Hoskins and Derek Jacobi, as well as the Oasis singer Noel Gallagher and Helena Kennedy QC all live in surrounding streets.

"This is a conservation area and

these buildings and the land they stand on are absolute gems," Mrs Brearley said. "I do think Eton should have the courtesy to talk to the residents about what they want because there is great strength of feeling about it."

It is not the first time the denizens of leafy north London have swung into action and petitioned Camden Council when the modern world has threatened to encroach upon their graceful houses and tree-lined streets.

Residents in Hampstead, having failed in the "Burger Off" campaign

to keep McDonald's out of the High Street, are currently trying to save the area's last authentic coffee bar, The Coffee Cup.

Now the fight to preserve the beauty of the area has moved south to Belsize Park. It is the fourth time that the school has applied to demolish the cottage and build on the site. One application was turned down last September and the others were withdrawn.

"They have totally neglected the house in the past. It could have been a beautiful home in its own right, but now it is a terrible mess and I think

what they are doing amounts to vandalism," Mrs Brearley said.

However, May Bass, secretary of the Provost Court residents' association, said the cottage should be renovated. "What is the point of having a conservation area if you are not going to conserve anything?"

"The cottage is not beyond redemption and they should do it up. The grounds could be beautiful and they provide a welcome bit of greenery."

Anthony Culligan, said that if Eton College authorities insisted on demolishing the cottage they should

build something of a similar size. "You cannot just knock down a building in a conservation area unless you are going to do something which enhances the area and I cannot see that these houses will do that," he said.

But Adrian Harris, the estates manager for Eton College, said the three planned houses - one three-storey family home and two semi-detached houses - would complement the area far better than the run-down cottage which was too small to convert to a family house. "We have been advised that the

best course of action would be to demolish it all together and build something more in keeping with the locality. The plans for the new houses match the architecture around. It is in Georgian style, but it is not a monolith and will not involve felling any trees," he said.

He added: "I think that what we are proposing is attractive and in keeping with the area."

A spokesman for Camden Council said the application had been received and was at the consultation stage. A final decision is expected on 9 July.

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Art ownership case rivets auction firms

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

A SIXTEENTH century painting is at the centre of a dispute over ownership which could have far-reaching implications for the international art market, a court heard yesterday.

The painting, by Joachim Wtewael, a contemporary of Shakespeare, vanished from Germany after the Second World War and was bought by a Panamanian Corporation who tried to sell it in 1989.

But the tiny masterpiece, *The Holy Family with Saints John and Elizabeth and Angels*, was withdrawn from sale in April 1992 when doubts about its provenance were raised.

Since then the painting, which measures just eight inches by six, has remained in safekeeping at Sotheby's pending the outcome of the dispute between the City of Gotha together with the Federal Republic of Germany and the Panamanian company Cobert Finance SA.

Alexander Layton QC, for the German authorities, told Mr Justice Moses that his decision would be closely watched by the London auction houses at the centre of the art trade.

"There are many thousands of works of art known to exist before this century's wars, which remain hidden, and it is thought that the outcome of this case may have a significant bearing on the extent to which those who now have those lost works of art will sell them for their own profit, without fear of claims by their rightful owners," he said.

The court heard that the story of the painting, believed to be worth at least £700,000 was "like something out of a detective novel". It had been owned by the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha since 1826 and, from 1924, formed part of a collection known as the Saxe-Coburg-Gotha Ducal Foundation for Art and Science.



The disputed work, by Joachim Wtewael

During the Second World War, it was probably put into storage at a castle in what was to become the German Democratic Republic.

However its fate at the end of the war was in dispute, the court heard. Cobert claimed that Adolf Kozlenkov, a colonel in the Soviet forces from Latvia, took the picture. The German authorities said this story was a fabrication and that military archives showed no sign of a colonel from Latvia called Kozlenkov. They argue that the most likely sequence of events was that the painting was taken from Gotha by Soviet soldiers and kept in the Soviet Union until 1986, from where, it was agreed, it was eventually taken to Berlin. In November 1988, it was acquired by a Mrs Breslav who took it to Sotheby's before selling it to Cobert.

Cobert is expected to argue that the authorities have lost all rights of possession and ownership to the painting. They claim that under the limitation period set out by the German Civil Code, the authorities had only 30 years from the date in the mid 1940s when the painting was removed from the possession of the Foundation in which to bring a claim for its return.

The case continues.

IN BRIEF

Ruling 'could lead surgeons to lie'

ALL HOSPITAL surgeons will be required to co-operate with investigations into post-operative deaths, health minister Baroness Jay announced yesterday. Up to now, participation has been voluntary but more than a third of surgeons in some NHS regions do not take part.

The move came as a surprise to Ron Hoile, co-ordinator of the unit responsible for monitoring deaths after surgery. He warned that making participation mandatory could lead some surgeons to lie.

Bull gores water-worker to death

A WATER-BOARD worker was yesterday gored to death by a bull which escaped from a field.

Wilson Cowan, 56, was taking samples beside a field near Pettinain in Lanarkshire. He is believed to have died from head injuries after a bull burst through a fence and trapped him between the fence and his van. Horrified onlookers tried to help Mr Cowan, from Abington, Lanarkshire, but he died at the scene. The animal is to be destroyed, police said.

North-south divide lives on

THE NORTH-SOUTH divide refuses to die away, according to a new survey on lifestyle habits in the UK.

Households in the South-east bring in more than 50 per cent above the average weekly income of those in North-east England, said findings in the UK advertising industry's annual guide, *The Regional Marketing Pocket Book*. Households in the South East bring in £483 a head compared to £321 in the North East. The average UK weekly household income is £397.

Rail link dormice make their move

DORMICE THAT made a home in the path of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link were being moved yesterday from Kent, to a secret location in Buckinghamshire.

A total of 30 dormice will be released in a woodland reserve - with a further 20 being let loose in Warwickshire as part of a scheme, co-ordinated by the Government's wildlife adviser English Nature, which aims to restore the nationally rare creature to seven English counties where it has vanished.

Setback for former RAC chairman

THE LATEST round of a bitter power struggle for control of the Royal Automobile Club ended yesterday in defeat for former chairman Jeffrey Rose's court attempt to force an extraordinary general meeting with a view to changing the board. Mr Rose, who won the support of 5,300 of the RAC's 12,000 full members for an EGM at the end of this month, is to lodge an urgent appeal against yesterday's ruling.

Cunard to build new 'Queen Mary'

PLANS FOR a giant new transatlantic liner were announced yesterday by QE2 operators Cunard.

The scheme - entitled Project Queen Mary - could lead to a vessel in excess of 85,000 tonnes being in service within four years. The project is the first direct result of Cunard's £300m takeover last month by US cruise company giant, Carnival. The original *Queen Mary*, built in 1936, was in service until 1967 before becoming a tourist attraction in California.

Correction

In yesterday's *Independent* the final paragraph of an article on page two about the age of consent for gays inadvertently ascribed a quote from Ann Widdecombe to a Labour Party spokeswoman. We are happy to correct the error.

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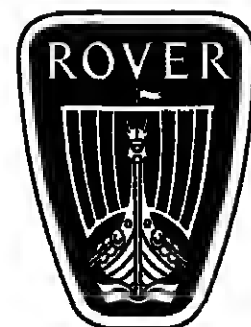
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Ruddock clashes with Harman (even when she's blushing)

ONE simple telephone call would have averted the horrendous disaster that was the almost daily clash between Harriet Harman's deafeningly over-the-top and the vibrant number one Labour MP selected for Oral Questions to the Secretary of State for Social Security.

But that call was clearly over placed. The upshot was the centre of the Labour front bench resembling an especially unappealing smoked salmon and mushy pea starter.

Along with the ill-advised puce blouson, Harman wore the haunting expression of a woman whose position is not absolutely stable. One

wonders for how much longer she will be taking questions on occupational pensions and housing benefit fraud.

But even with this added spice, Harman's Half Hour wasn't the gripping affair it could have been. It was only during a sustained Tory attack that her cheeks pinkened to a delicate hue that stopped agonisingly short of her outer attire.

Was her New Deal for Lone Parents in danger of becoming a "very expensive, failed sound bite"? she was asked.

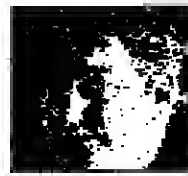
Surely looking after an under-five is a full-time job in itself for a Lone Parent. But Harman made plain her belief that more LPs than ever

were keen to exchange nappy-emptying duties for more glamorous forms of employment. This, in turn, raised the issue - courtesy of Jackie Ballard (Lib Dem, Taunton) - of government-funded child carers. "Mm," harrumphed a Tory backbencher, "Nanny Tax."

The eminently readable face of Diane Abbott (Lab, Hackney North and Stoke Newington) served as an excellent barometer for entertainment levels in the House.

Stiffing a yawn, she would turn her baleful gaze up to the public gallery as another less-than-riveting exchange limped across the divide. But if something grabbed her wandering attention she would

THE SKETCH



ADRIAN DEVOY

snap out of this glazed reverie and begin bouncing up and down like a schoolchild in pressing need of a

wee. But not all the Labour squad were as visibly supportive. When Harman became particularly earnest, left hand beating out a worthy rhythm, one of her colleagues - oo names, no pack drill, hairdo inspired by a Northern night-club owner - took the opportunity to steeple his pudgy hands studiously beneath his many chins and grab what looked like at least 35 winks. A veil of muted dread and fear descended as pensions were discussed.

The shuffling fact that more than 50 per cent of Europeans will be over 50 by 2021 hung heavy in the air like a dulling wine. John Denham, the pensions minister, was

confronted with the accusation that 10,000 winter fuel payments for hard-up pensioners were sent out in error. The wiry and inexplicably irritating John Bercow (Con, Buckingham) described his department as "incompetent". Denman weakly admitted that the incident was "regrettable". Tell that to your grandmother as you de-frost her this Christmas.

Interesting to note that during this pensions palaver a more senior Labour member took the opportunity to ease himself up and shuffle out of the room. It was only as he vacated his seat that he was exposed as the only right honourable member to have been awarded a

large, square cushion. But why the premature departure? Presumably, he had piles of stuff to get through.

Having just managed to scrape through on points, Harriet Harman quit question time with the smallest of sighs.

Outside the House earlier, the freshly-promoted shadow health secretary Anne Widdowson was having her photograph taken. Striking what she undoubtedly fancied to be an alluring pose, Miss Widdowson - you could not help but notice - was wearing a sawn-off safari jacket in another distressing shade of green. Something must be done.

MPs rebel over proposals for student fees

A £143 MILLION package of concessions by David Blunkett last night failed to avert a revolt by Labour MPs over the Government's controversial plans to impose tuition fees and scrap maintenance grants.

As a group of Labour MPs were threatening to abstain or vote against the Government, the Education Secretary announced he was raising the age limit from 50 to 55 and keeping the non-repayable allowance for mature students with dependent children.

In addition, the special non-repayable £1,000-a-year grant for single parents would be retained. He also announced that the no-means-tested grant for disabled students would rise to £10,000 to help them meet extra costs of disability.

As MPs prepared to debate a series of amendments, a petition objecting to the plans signed by students was handed in at 10 Downing Street by celebrities from the music industry, including Paul Weller, and Nicky Wire of Manic Street Preachers.

Crowds of students from across the country chanted with banners outside the gates to Downing Street as a group of students, led by comedian Rob Newman and accompanied by MPs Tony Benn and Ken Livingstone, handed in the letter.

The Teaching and Higher Education Bill, going through its committee stage in the Commons, will introduce annual tuition fees of up to £1,000 and abolish the maintenance grant from October.

The proposals will mean that students could graduate from University with debts of up to £10,000, with opponents of the scheme claiming

EDUCATION
BY OLIVER CAVE
AND COLIN BROWN

this will deter poorer students from going into the higher education system in the first place.

Mr Livingstone said: "I had free education and I think this Bill stinks."

"I would like to tell Tony Blair to back off this and remember the benefits he had from free education."

Mr Benn said he was supporting the students' protest because he thought everyone should be entitled to free education.

He said: "There was nothing about this in the Labour manifesto."

PARENTS SHOULD only be able to send their children to the school nearest their home, Lord Hattersley said last night.

He called for legislation banning head teachers from interviewing children or parents when they applied for a place.

He also attacked ministers for failing to abolish grammar schools and allowing schools to select children by "aptitude".

He said: "Putting the question of denominational schools aside, there should be only two admission criteria - proximity to the school and siblings within it."

In a speech to Sheffield University students, Lord Hattersley also criticised Labour plans to encourage businesses to help run education action zones as a way of raising standards in deprived areas.

John McDonnell (Labour, Hayes and Harlington) who was leader of the revolt said: "The main problem with this legislation is that in principle, the whole tradition of the Labour Party has been opposed to extending fees for education. We were formed to ensure we created a more equal society."

Defending the government's plans, Mr Blunkett said that it would ultimately mean a fairer system for students. "It will be based on the influence of the individual later in life, paid at a time when the student can afford it, at a rate the student can afford," he said.

"In allocating existing resources, we clearly have to give priority to nursery education, standards, literacy and the disaffected at school. There are no fairy godmothers. The better-off paying a little helps open up access and retain quality for the many who will want to be in higher education in the future."

The Government has pledged that by 2002, an extra 500,000 students will be in higher education.

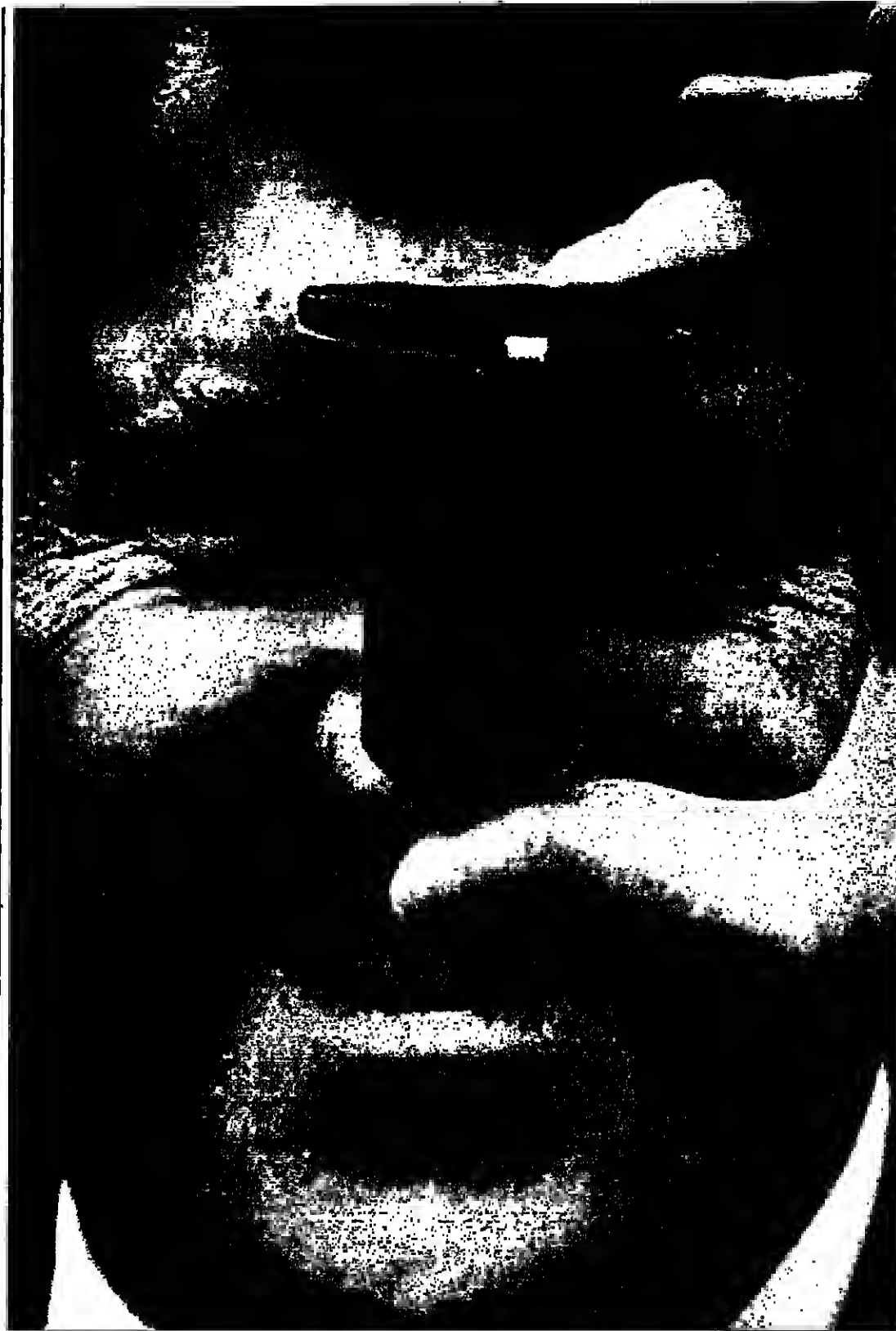
Mr Blunkett announced how access funds helping students in financial difficulties will be increased to £44 million and extended to part-time students.

Other proposals include:

■ £2 million to pay the tuition fees of part-time students losing their jobs after starting their course.

■ New £250 hardship loans for students who find themselves in financial difficulties.

■ Lifting the means test on disabled students' allowances and increasing the maximum help available for non-medical helpers to £10,000 a year.



Secretary of State for Defence George Robertson displaying a landmine yesterday at Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, where stocks of the weapons were being destroyed
Fiona Hanson/PA

NHS 'blind to 2000 bug'

HEALTH
BY ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

NATIONAL HEALTH Service hospital trusts and health authorities were yesterday accused by a minister of taking a cavalier attitude towards the threat posed by the millennium computer bug.

In a Commons statement, David Clark, the Cabinet minister with responsibility for Whitehall, appealed to MPs to do all they could to apply local pressure to some trusts and health authorities to take the issue seriously.

He said the NHS and local authorities needed to reassure the public that they could ensure a "satisfactory continuation of key public services over the millennium".

The bug will strike from the end of next year when two-digit year-dates change to 00. At that point, some computer programs will be unable to distinguish 2000 from 1900.

It emerged yesterday that the NHS executive has given all trusts and authorities a September 1999 deadline for ensuring "all parts of the NHS are fully prepared with compliant equipment or effective contingency plans in place".

That deadline is certain to increase government concerns about the action being taken by the NHS - because it leaves an inadequate three-month safety net for authorities which fall behind.

The National Audit Office reported just last month that 15 per cent of trusts who bothered to reply to an official survey "were not confident that they would succeed in ensuring that their clinical equipment would continue functioning normally in year 2000".

Murdoch predatory pricing unscathed by Bill, says QC

GOVERNMENT plans to tighten up competition law will not prevent newspaper price cutting by Rupert Murdoch, a legal opinion obtained by Independent Newspapers shows.

The opinion, commissioned from a leading competition lawyer by the owners of *The Independent*, will be rejected today by the Government. It says its lawyers have a different view.

The issue will be decided today during the committee stage of the Competition Bill in the House of Commons.

The Government will seek to overturn a House of Lords amendment designed to stop predatory pricing by Mr Murdoch's newspaper *The Times*.

Ministers have asserted that the new clause 19, which would prohibit abuse of a dominant position in circumstances which might reduce the diversity of the press, is "unnecessary and unworkable".

They want to remove it from the bill, claiming that other measures contained in the legislation will regulate newspaper pricing.

However, an opinion from Richard Fowler QC for the owners of *The Independent* says the measures in the bill would have to be modified if they were to help address newspaper pricing.

Mr Murdoch sells *The Times* for 30 pence on weekdays, considerably less than any other broadsheet newspaper. At one point the paper sold for 10 pence

MEDIA
BY FRAN ABRAMS



Rupert Murdoch's price cutting moves will be debated in Parliament today

on Mondays. Brendan Hopkins, managing director of Independent Newspapers, said: "This opinion is quite categorical in its rejection of the

Government view that the amendment was 'unnecessary and unworkable'. "The Government's position on Clause 19 is not untenable and I look forward to it honouring pledges it made in opposition to act against predatory newspaper pricing."

However, the Department of Trade and Industry said its own legal opinion showed the opposite.

It believed European case law showed that where prices were below the average cost of production, they should be assumed to be predatory. No proof of intent is needed, a spokesman said.

"We believe that the abuse of dominance such as predatory pricing should be stamped out whatever the market," he said.

In a letter to David Chidgey, the Liberal Democrat spokesman for trade and industry, the minister of state Ian McCartney said the Government's advice was confidential.

Last night Mr Chidgey said he would be happy to assist in drawing up a workable amendment.

"However, I fear that the Government's real opinion is that the amendment is politically undesirable, rather than practically unworkable," he said.

"The Government must stop pandering to powerful media moguls and stand up for the continuing freedom and diversity of the British press."

Tories warned on Lords reform

THE THREAT of a constitutional crisis was stepped up last night after the Government warned it would use the Parliament Act to force through legislation to reform the House of Lords if Conservative peers used their majority to block it.

The warning of a constitutional battle with Tory peers came after Viscount Cranborne, the Conservative leader of the House of Lords reinforced the Tories' threat to block the reforms in the Lords, unless the aristocrats are replaced by peers who were "at least as independent".

His remarks, reinforcing the warning given at the weekend by William Hague, the Conservative leader, were condemned by the Government and the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown.

Mr Ashdown said: "It appears that Hague has decided that the Tories will defend the past and simply tear up the Salisbury convention [that the Lords will not block a measure that was a manifesto commitment of the elected Government]. That I regard as exceedingly dangerous."

The Liberal Democrat leader backed the Government's proposed reforms to the Lords in a party report calling for radical changes to the constitution with proportional representation for the next general election. The main points are:

■ to cut the Commons by 250 MPs to 500 seats;

■ fixed-term parliaments of four years;

■ cut the number of ministers by 35;

■ make Cabinet papers public after 10 years;

■ rename the House of Lords the "Senate" with two-stage reform on the lines proposed by the Government.

Lord Cranborne warned that if proposals for the wider reform of the House were not introduced at the same time as scrapping the voting rights of hereditary peers, it would be blocked in the Lords by the Tories. "Unless stage one and the further reform of stage two happen together, stage two will not happen at all. In private, I have heard ministers accept that," he told a conference in London.

The Leader of the House of Lords, Lord Richard, said it would be a "constitutional outrage" if they tried to use their "array of hereditary peers" to block government reform of the House of Lords.

He said they still hoped to reach agreement with the Conservatives on arrangements for a reformed upper chamber, taking away the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the Lords. But Lord Richard confirmed that if a deal was not possible the Government would bring in a Bill to scrap the voting rights of hereditary peers and create an "interim" House while the future composition of the new chamber was decided.

Lord Richard made clear that the Government would use the Parliament Act to force through the legislation after a delay of a year if the Conservatives used their majority in the House of Lords to block the reforms. "Like the Grand Old Duke of York, they are marching their men to the top of the hill. I can only hope that they have the good sense to march them down as he did," Lord Richard said.

Paddy Ashdown
Review, page 4

SWIFTCALL

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ecstasy Testing:

George Howarth, a Home Office Minister, said in response to James Clappison (Hertsmere) that kits testing for the presence of ecstasy are of doubtful value. But the Government does not intend to introduce specific controls on the supply of the kits.

Sudan:

Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, told Ann Clwyd (Cynon Valley) that she had approved further British contributions during May totalling £6.23m, bringing the overall assistance to Sudan since February to £10.23m.

Abattoirs:

Jeff Rooker, the Agriculture Minister, told Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington) that a confidential help line had been set up for Meat Hygiene Service employees who are intimidated or threatened by their colleagues or employers.

هذا من الاصل

Protesters stock up for Birmingham road war



The eco-warrior Ming stocking up with food supplies during a shopping trip to the local supermarket

John Voos

EVEN ECO-WARRIORS must eat. Ming, one of the protesters who has set up camp near the Birmingham Northern Relief Road, took time out to buy provisions at the weekend.

He is one of about 30 people who have been gathered at two camps near the proposed route for the road since last October in protest at the six-lane privately owned toll expressway which Labour once vowed would never be built. The protesters have created a warren of bunkers with the intention of holding up clearance work. They claim they can chain themselves to the security doors for a month if necessary.

The Rev David Shawcross, who spends as much time as he can at the Greenwood Camp, in Sutton Coldfield, plans to "lock on" to a tree and start reading the Bible aloud once the demolition starts. "It is illegal to interrupt a clergyman or minister while he is about his normal business and as I hold regular prayer meetings up there, it is my normal business," he said. "It takes about a fortnight to read the Bible right through continuously and after that I shall begin on the hymn book."

Charles Bradshaw-Smith, a business analyst and chairman of the Alliance Against the BNR, which

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

includes 16 communities, said: "It is hard to believe that the Government has given the go-ahead to build this road. It is environmentally destructive, will create more traffic and is not wanted by the local people."

"Why should our communities be sacrificed when there is no greater good. The traffic in and out of the conurbation will remain the same so there is no point in building this road."

While the protesters at the camp concentrate on direct action, members of the alliance are taking their protest through the courts.

They have demanded access to the secret contract agreements for the construction of the 27-mile-long toll road which is due to run through greenbelt land and two sites of special scientific interest.

Mr Bradshaw-Smith said that on the basis of a letter written by John Prescott, which the group has seen, the concession agreement contains illegal clauses which forced the Secretary of State to give the go-ahead to the road last July.

Last week, a judge ruled that the group's lawyers could have access to certain parts of the agreement with the contractors, Midland Ex-

pressway Limited. "Our lawyers have said that document should be in the public domain and that is what we are fighting for," said Mr Bradshaw-Smith.

"Once our lawyers have seen the documents we can use that information in our second case which is to put a stop to the road altogether."

Gerald Kells, of West Midlands Friends of the Earth, who helped organise the alliance, said the road would not ease congestion but would simply shuffle traffic elsewhere. "The Government has admitted that the traffic on the M6 will be the same and most of the people who will use the BNR are currently using A roads. They will just end up being pushed on to the motorway causing a huge bottleneck," he said.

The BNR was conceived in the 1980s as part of an "M25-style" orbital motorway round Birmingham and was to be used as the flagship for a Conservative policy of private toll motorways. The developers were hoping to start work on the £400m scheme in December but have admitted that the legal action has set them back a year.

The BNR will link the M42 at Coleshill with the M6 at Cannock.

Biotech firms hit back at Charles

A ROW sparked by the Prince of Wales launching an attack on genetically modified foods intensified yesterday as biotechnology companies hit back. They were, they said, satisfied both with the biological and the regulatory basis for their work.

At the heart of the debate is a struggle for the soul of British consumers, between agro-chemical interests and new technology on one side and organic farmers on the other. Consumer groups yesterday sided with the Prince, calling for fuller labelling of genetically modified (GM) foods.

Biotechnology companies defended their work after the Prince aired in a newspaper article his worries about inserting genes into crops.

Dr Colin Merritt, technical manager of Monsanto, said that genetic modification was an extension of practices that had existed for thousands of years. "All that's different is that we now understand the chemistry and the genetics far more than we did and we can use a slightly wider range of choice of material."

A spokesman for Zeneca, the British biotechnology company, added: "Prince Charles is entitled to his views, but we believe that on a scientific basis the biotechnology is regulated correctly, and there are correct regulatory measures in place before a product goes to market."

Europe insists on far more stringent testing procedures than the US for new GM foods. Proponents insist that biotechnology which can introduce new genes into crops from entirely different species - or even from animals into plants - is necessary both to meet the world's increasing demand for food, and to reduce the need for artificial chemicals that could affect the environment.

Patrick Holden, director of the organic movement's Soil Association, warned that most of the new crops would be herbicide-resistant, and that there were also unforeseen health risks "which if they came to pass could be irreversible and difficult to counter".

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Science and
Technology Editor

He suggested that in 10 years all the main staple food crops might be modified. "This is a technology which is going to be imposed on all of us whether we like it or not, and it will deny consumers choice."

Prince Charles compared the possible effects to those of BSE - mad cow disease - in an article in a daily newspaper. He wrote: "The lesson of BSE and other entirely man-made disasters in the cause of 'cheap food' is surely that it is the unforeseen consequences which present the greatest cause for concern."

"Once genetic material has been released into the environment it cannot be recalled. The likelihood of a major problem may be slight, but if something does go badly wrong we will be faced with the problem of clearing up a kind of pollution which is self-perpetuating."

The National Consumer Council (NCC) said the Prince was more in tune with consumers than EU policy makers who had failed to insist there should be clear labelling.

NCC director Ruth Evans said: "Consumers want to know how their food has been produced because, for a variety of reasons, many do not wish to eat foods from GM sources."

Prince Charles suggested that farming GM soybeans led to use of pesticides where "when the crop is sprayed, every other plant in the field is killed. The result is an essentially sterile field, providing neither food nor habitat for wildlife."

For Monsanto, Dr Merritt responded: "In the United States the amount of insecticide used on one crop alone had been reduced by two million litres."

He rejected as "irresponsible nonsense" claims that his firm was seeking corporate power by selling farmers both seed and its own patented pesticide. Farmers did not have to buy his products, he said.

Leading article
Review, page 3

Car-theft gang jailed

EIGHT GANG members who stole dozens of top-of-the-range cars, and then filmed themselves performing driving stunts, were jailed yesterday.

Judge Bruce Coles told them they had an "premeditated and outrageous disregard of the law" which had resulted in anarchy in parts of Birmingham. He said the gang - all aged between 18 and 30, and known as the Acocks Green Posse - had terrorised

the victims of their crimes with violence before parading the stolen cars in front of friends. Police said the gang's activities involved more than £800,000-worth of cars, including Porsches and BMWs.

Sentencing the eight at Coventry Crown Court, the judge said they had "clearly relished" their "blatant and brazen" criminal activities, and he imposed jail terms of between 20 months and four years.



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New pension deal for divorced women

PROPOSALS to give women fairer pension rights if they divorce were published by the Government yesterday.

The plan will enable the courts to treat pension rights like any other assets when dividing property between divorcing couples.

The Government estimates that up to 50,000 people a year, mostly women, could benefit.

"Pension sharing" would enable the transfer of all, or a proportion, of a husband's pension rights wholly to his soon-to-be former wife, ensuring a "clean break" settlement and a decent retirement income for the woman.

The plan builds on consultation by the previous Tory government which produced broad consensus that pension sharing was the way forward, though the system may not be fully in place until 2000.

Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security and Minister for Women, said: "Many women face poverty in retirement after divorce, despite the contribution they have made to their husband's pension. We are giving women a fair share of pension on divorce."

"This is an important step towards fairness and security in

retirement for women and it is part of reforming pensions."

Women are generally much poorer than men in retirement, and often lose out after divorce because of inadequate arrangements for splitting pension rights.

Ms Harman said the proposals recognised the wife's contribution to her husband's pension rights by caring for children and the home, enabling him to work and build up a healthy second pension.

Research in 1995 found men were four times as likely as women to have "substantial" pension rights on divorce - defined as five or more years' contributions to an occupational pension.

The idea of pension sharing was first raised by the Law Commission in 1969. It has attracted more attention recently partly because the divorce rate in England and Wales more than doubled - from 74,000 a year to 155,000 - between 1971 and 1995, and trebled in Scotland over the same period, to 12,000 a year.

Pension rights are one of the most valuable assets owned by many divorcing couples.

The consultation document notes that 19 million workers - more than three-quarters of the number in

work - are building up funds in either an occupational or personal pension scheme, and the value of those funds now exceeds £300bn.

But, unlike nearly all other assets, divorcing couples cannot split pension rights between them.

The law has been changed to make some progress towards a fairer division of pension rights, but the provisions have drawbacks and are not much used. Since the 1970s, courts have had to take account of the value of rights to offset them against other assets in financial settlements, or "ear-mark" them for maintenance payments once the pension starts being paid.

The pension sharing proposal would not be mandatory, but would enable some or all of a spouse's pension rights to be transferred to the other spouse on divorce, giving that person rights to a second pension of their own, not dependent on the circumstances of the former partner.

It will be available for occupational and personal pensions, and the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps).

The Commons social security select committee will take evidence on the proposals. Legislation is likely to be introduced by the end of this year.



Sallie Quin at home in Chichester; she is campaigning for fair division of pensions on divorce

Andrew Hasson

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YOUR STAFF
WOULD RISK
THEIR LIVES
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'Everything I had went into the family pot'

WHEN Sallie Quin's husband walked out on her and their teenage daughter seven years ago it was the beginning of a relentless financial struggle.

Like thousands of other women, Mrs Quin believes that she is entitled to a share in her former spouse's company pension because it was intended as a nest-egg for both of them.

She said: "If I hadn't ironed his shirts every week, taken his suits to the dry cleaners and looked after him when he had sciatica I don't think he would have held down his job. I earned a right to that money."

"It's the principle that counts... When he got paid and I got paid the money was pooled... Everything that I had went into the family pot."

"The woman he left me for was with him for two months at the firm where he had worked for 22 years. I had been with him for 17 out of those 22 years. She had been with him for two months and then he quit. Now she is going to get my widow's pension."

Mrs Quin, 53, now works voluntarily for FairShares, a pressure group that campaigns for fair division of all assets, including pensions, on divorce.

She relies on income support to pay the mortgage on their family home in Chichester, West Sussex. She said: "There is not enough equity in this house to sell up and move on. I can't find a job that will pay enough money to cover a mort-

For one woman, and thousands more, a new law will come too late

gage that was based on my husband's salary." She said that she and her husband had made a joint decision that she would work part-time and look after their child so she was not a "latchkey kid". "I worked part-time. My money covered things like school uniforms and school trips and the odd holiday. It was the normal set-up," she added.

After Mrs Quin's husband left her in 1991 he left his job, at the age of 49, and began to draw his pension at the end of that year. She says that although their matrimonial assets amounted to £250,000, she was left with less than a quarter of that: "I got the equity on the house and the endowment policy and a second-hand car, which all amounted to £54,000."

Sallie, who will gain nothing personally from a new law, says she is campaigning to establish a principle. She is determined that her daughter, now a 22-year-old university student, should not be forced into the same position.

She said: "FairShares must have had calls from 12-15,000 people. About 100 of them are men. I think that proportion will increase over time."

LINUS GREGORIADIS

Ballet classes offered to all

THE ENGLISH National Ballet (ENB) is to run free classical dance classes in the park, and put merchandise in toy shops, in an attempt to widen ballet's popularity amongst the public.

The initiatives are recommended in a report by a top marketing management consultancy company which the publicly funded ENB employed to improve its audience figures and enhance its image.

The consultancy, Darwin, has drawn up a report for the ENB which urges a change of approach. The report, which has been seen by *The Independent*, says the ENB should allow ticket bookings over the Internet, expand the reach of corporate hospitality packages and develop affiliations with restaurants and hotel chains. It also urges the company to emphasise the "very physical nature of ballet". It is thought this will attract more men to shows. At present, only about a quarter of all attendees are male.

The ENB, which receives a £3.9m grant from the Arts Council, has welcomed the report and later this month will start putting the recommendations into action. From 18 to 22 June the ENB will mount "Lark in the Park", offering ballet classes in Kensington Gardens opposite the Royal Albert Hall, where the company is staging *Romeo and Juliet*. As well as classes, the

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

public will also be able to see the company training in the park.

The ENB commissioned Darwin following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, who as ENB's patron raised the profile of the organisation. ENB's deputy executive director, Richard Shaw, said: "We have obviously reached the point where we have to come up with new ways of generating interest."

Dan Salmons, one of Darwin's founding partners, said: "Market research suggests that about six per cent of the adult population currently goes to ballet performances but between 30 and 40 per cent are open to the idea. All of these people are ENB's target audience. To do that we have to make ballet more accessible so people feel comfortable with it."

Darwin's market research found a number of opinions which will find echoes among arts audiences. Audience comments include: "Why does the ice cream seller always come down in a few minutes before curtain down? It is bad manners... the theatre is always too hot for comfort... there is not much leg room... not enough bar staff... bar prices too high... more ladies' toilets needed."

هكذا من الأصل



The finalists in the 1998 Shell London Symphony Orchestra Music Scholarship for strings rehearsing yesterday. From left: Natasha Omelka on the violin; Lawrence Power on viola; Katharine Wood on cello and So-ock Kim on violin

IRA bomb calls 'were inaccurate'

THE IRA gave "inaccurate and wholly inadequate" warnings of the Docklands bomb that killed two men and ended its 18-month ceasefire, a court heard yesterday.

The bomb, which was built into a converted lorry, went off as thousands of people were leaving work and going home, John Bevan QC told Woolwich Crown Court in east London.

James McCordle, 29, a labourer from Crossmaglen, Co Armagh, denies conspiring "with other persons unknown" to cause an explosion likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property between 30 October 1995 and 10 February 1996.

He also denies murdering Inam Bashir and John Jeffries, the two who died in the blast.

Mr Bevan said the explosion, at South Quay at 6.59pm on Friday 9 February 1996, was "enormous" and brought to an end the first 18-month ceasefire by the IRA.

He went on: "Inaccurate and, from the point of view of timing, wholly inadequate warnings were given by telephone from a number of people. These warnings did not begin to give police sufficient time to warn and evacuate the many thousands of people working and leaving work in the area."

A policeman managed to warn Mr Bashir and Mr Jeffries to leave but they "did not act immediately... within a few minutes they were killed instantly when it went off."

Mr Bevan told the jury that a "meticulous investigation" had traced the bomb lorry's history to Northern Ireland. A month before the blast, it had been taken on a practice run to Carlisle.

"It was a major IRA operation which must have involved a large number of people, each with their own explicit role in the planning of it, the conversion of the lorry and the housing, the storing of the lorry and, of course, the manufacture of the bomb inside the lorry."

He said McCordle's alleged role was a "central one at the forefront of the plan".

His finger thumb and palm prints were found on a number of items which could be linked to the practice and bombing runs.

The trial continues.

New war against army of termites

SCIENTISTS WENT to war yesterday against a rare colony of stubborn termites that is destroying two holiday homes on the Devon coast.

It was hoped the termites, which were discovered four years ago and make up Britain's only infestation of the insect, had been killed off when they were originally treated at the time.

But a few weeks ago they were found to have survived and were happily munching their way through the two beach-front properties in Saunton, north of Bude.

Around one million termites are thought to be advancing on a 190ft-long front, chewing their way through the wooden infrastructure of the £200,000 luxury houses.

The termite-busting team, led by Dr Robert Verkerk from Imperial College, London, includes scientists from the Building Research Establishment and the Natural Resources Institute.

Funded by £190,000 of government money, they are beginning their attack on the voracious insects, who have already rendered the properties uninhabitable, with an inspection of the site.

They will then examine other timbers in a 200-metre radius around the affected properties including fence posts and tree stumps. If it is discovered the infestation has spread beyond that range, the examination will be extended to a 500-metre radius.

The team will sink cylinders of unaffected wood into the ground further out still and wait to see if they are attacked, so they will be able to gauge the

BY MATTHEW BRACE

full extent of the infestation. These cylinders of wooden "bait" will then be replaced with wood treated with an environmentally friendly chemical called hexafluoruron, an insect growth-regulator with the toxicity of table salt.

A spokesman from the Department of Environment, Transport and Regions, said: "This is eaten by worker termites who transfer it to the young developing insects who then fail to mature, eventually wiping out the population - we hope."

It could take the team as long as two years to eradicate the colony completely and it will continue to monitor the area for at least another decade. Several householders in the area have been asked to participate in the monitoring programme.

Termites, which can wreck houses and wipe out crops, are usually found in tropical countries although some are also present in temperate climates, such as the south of France.

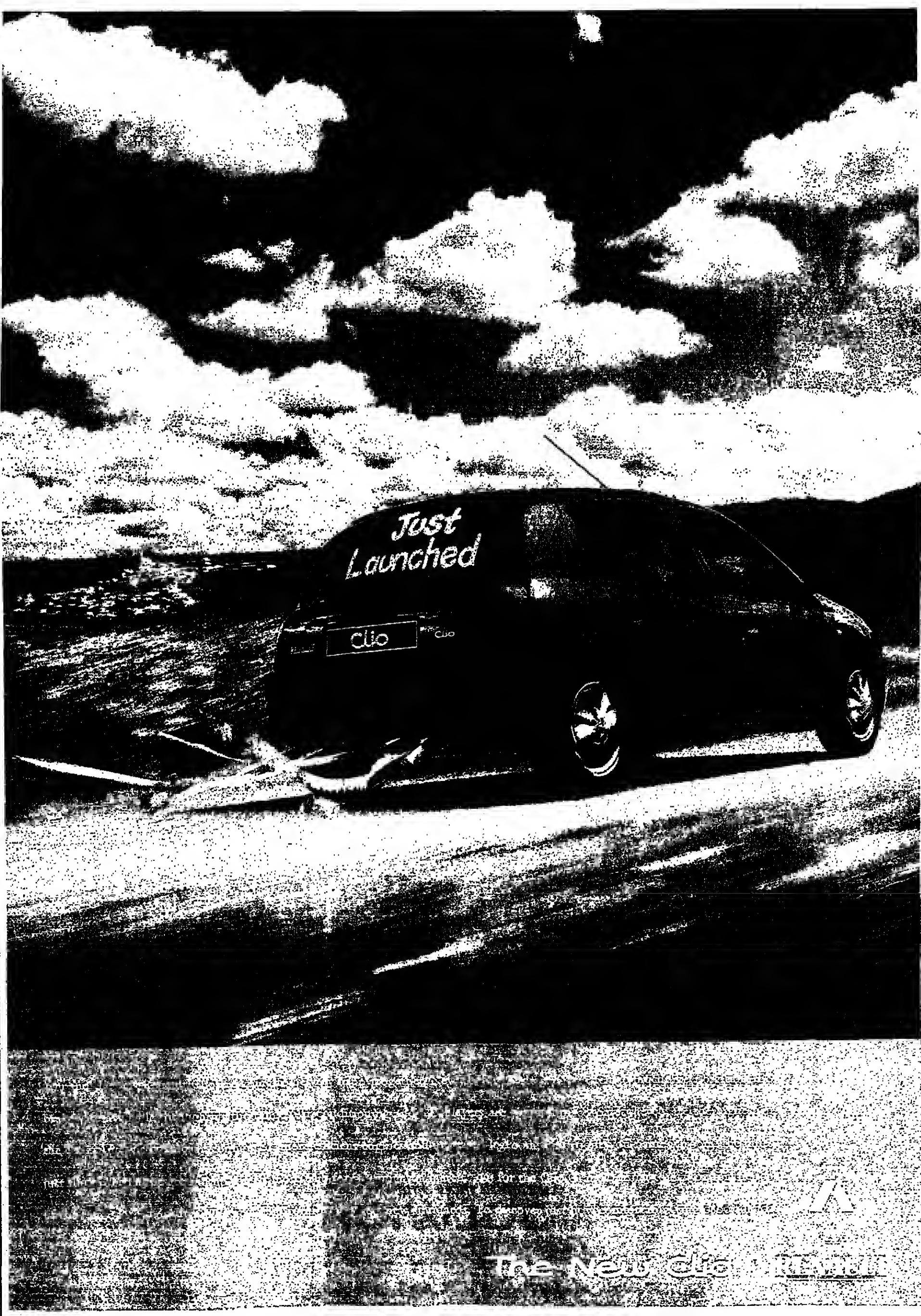
The DETR says it is thought that the Devon colony was introduced inadvertently to Britain in the soil of a pot plant brought from the Continent.

These creatures, often considered to be the most destructive of insects, usually live in mounds built of soil mixed with saliva which can be up to 12ft high and hold upwards of six million insects.

The queen termite can produce 360,000 eggs a day. However, because of Britain's cooler climate, the Devon termites have bred and fed more slowly and therefore the colony is not as big as it could be.



The Devon termites are thought to have been brought into Britain from the Continent in a pot plant



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Local heroes lead the war on drugs

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

"To me, the fight against drugs is



A drug addict in Lower East Side, where a new approach that does not depend on force is being tried

Justin Sutcliffe

■ **The convicted drugs smuggler Howard Marks, the Labour MP Paul Flynn and Colin Paisley, a former heroin addict and former mayor, were among those protesting outside the Foreign Office in Whitehall yesterday against the UN conference on drugs in New York. The three-day session, starting today, will be attended by John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, and the UK drugs tsar Kelih Hellawell. Mr Marks, a campaigner for the legalisation of cannabis, said the conference would not do anything to stop the gangsters involved in the illegal drugs industry.**

*Conventional drug treatment pulls people away from their existing supports. What we believe is that there are lot of strengths in peo-

Ms Shapiro is far from alone in her feelings. Leading those who will try this week to impress on delegates at the UN the need for a revolutionary approach to breaking the drugs cycle will be the New York-based Lindsmith Center. The foun-

With signatories who include British MPs, professors, religious leaders and the former head of the Scotland Yard Drug Squad, Edward Ellison, the letter stated: "Scarce resources better expended on health, education and economic develop-

There can be few better test-beds for a new approach than the Lower East Side, where the battles between gangs for supremacy over lucrative territory spills almost daily onto the streets and the newspaper headlines. In a year, the New York police have brought charges against 90 members of gangs such as the now notorious Dead Man Walking gang.

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

CHARLTON HESTON, the Hollywood actor who played Moses in the film epic, *The Ten Commandments* and won an Oscar for his portrayal of Ben Hur, was yesterday inducted into the presidency of one of America's most powerful and best organised lobby groups, the National Rifle Association.

Heston, who is 73 and has been active in the association for more than 25 years, told the annual NRA convention in Philadelphia that he wanted to bring the NRA "back into the mainstream" so that no one would have to be ashamed to be a member.

His words reflected the new defensiveness of an organisation which has found itself increasingly blamed, especially by those on the left, for much

that is wrong with America today, starting with levels of inner-city violence and a recent spate of fatal school shootings. There were anti-NRA protests in Philadelphia, a city that has bucked the trend towards less violent crime and has the highest proportion of shooting deaths – 32 per cent of 425 killings last year – in America.

The liberal establishment expressed its disapproval for the NRA by keeping the convention at arm's length, and many media organisations gave it scant coverage, aside from Hestor's election.

To listen to NRA convention speakers, however, and read the NRA's publications is to access quite a different view of the world. The Association, with more than three million paid-up members, regards itself as the voice of "responsible gun ownership" and chief defender of

the Second Amendment of the US Constitution, the right of every citizen to bear arms. Its platform combines support for increased civilian ownership of firearms with a strong law-and-order platform.

To the NRA, the villains of endemic urban crime and the recent school shootings are not guns, but lax parental discipline, family breakdown and a penal system which releases felons too soon. As the uncle of one of the pupils injured in last month's school shooting in Oregon put it in a letter to the Washington Post: "Providing safety with more restrictive gun-control laws is a feel-good fallacy that has failed in the past."

His views enjoy wide support, especially in the mid-Western and southern US states, as witnessed by increasing NRA membership and record attendance at their

gathering. By the time the 4,000-strong convention closed yesterday, it had attracted almost 50,000 visitors.

In his keynote speech to the convention dinner, the leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, Trent Lott, said, curbing violence in America's inner cities would be achieved not by reducing gun ownership, but by putting more guns in the hands of the law-abiding citizens. "What we really need," he said, "is 100 million Americans who know how to deter crime."

While President Clinton has had some success in toughening gun control, his anti-gun crusade has met resistance. To the NRA, gun control laws are anathema. The strength of feeling in the association is such that Charlton Heston faced strong opposition from a group that felt his credentials were not

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

THE UNITED States used deadly nerve gas in top secret operations during the Vietnam War, CNN and *Time* magazine reported yesterday.

Sarin, the same gas that was used by the Japanese cult Aum Shinri Kyo on the Tokyo underground in 1995, was used on a mission to kill US defectors, they reported. The Pentagon did not confirm the report, but it was confirmed by the top military officer at the time of the incident.

turn in Vietnam, they were ordered to find a group of US defectors in Laos. At the time, US forces were not supposed to be operating in Laos.

Their mission was to kill the defectors, who, it was feared, might disclose details of sensitive operations. "My orders were, if it's alive, if it breathes oxygen, if it urinates, if it defecates, kill it," said platoon leader Robert Van Buskirk. The village where the defectors were based was bombed with nerve gas. The commandos then attacked the village where they found several people who they believed to be Americans. They killed, including many women and children.

But on their way back, the soldiers were ambushed and cut off from the helicopters that would evacuate them. "The enemy was coming at us. We were out of ammo," said Ven


Buskirk. He radioed an Air Force controller for what they called "the bad of the bad." A flight of Skyralders dropped gas canisters which killed all of the North Vietnamese and communist soldiers. Vomiting and convulsing, they died where they stood. All I see is bodies," said Vice Buskirk.

Though the Pentagon would not confirm the story, Admiral Thomas Moore, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1970, confirmed that in this mission and others to rescue airmen trapped behind enemy lines, sarin was used. "I would be willing to use any weapon and any tactic to save the lives of American soldiers," he told CNN and Time. Use of the gas would have been sanctioned by President Richard Nixon's national security team, he said.

The fact sarin had been used on the ground was confirmed

as well as afterwards means, however, that civilians were killed as well as enemy troops. This was at a time when the US had pledged under the Geneva Protocol not to use chemical or biological weapons unless they had been used by an enemy first. It raises grave questions about subsequent US use of such prohibited weapons. The programme concludes that Vietnam may have been used more than 20 times.

Some of the Laos SOG team suffered after-effects from the raid. The gas masks which they were issued were of class C, defective. Sergeant Mike Hagen suffers from growing paralysis in his extremities, one of the recognised symptoms of nerve gas damage. The SOG commandos were also issued atropine, a nerve gas antidote. CNN and Time



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هكذا فن الأصل

Abacha leaves a vacuum of power

WHEN NIGERIAN military ruler General Sani Abacha died suddenly yesterday, he left no obvious successor. His death gives an abrupt wrench to the turbulent politics of Africa's most populous nation, where army rulers have repeatedly promised and repeatedly delayed a return to democratic rule.

Nigeria exports almost two million barrels of crude oil a day. Prices made a small jump on world markets on news of Abacha's death but the effect was outweighed by doubts about the willingness of producer nations to restrain supplies.

Abacha seized power in 1993 during political turmoil after the military cancelled a presidential election in mid-count. He had been expected to transform himself into an elected civilian president in a one-candidate election planned in August.

A statement from chief of defence staff Major-General Abdulsalam Abubakar said Abacha, 54, would be buried at his home city of Kano yesterday according to Muslim rites.

"General Sani Abacha passed away in the early hours of this morning... May his soul rest in peace," the statement said.

The statement did not give the cause of death. Western diplomats in Lagos, who heard the news before the official announcement, said it was a heart attack.

It was not immediately clear who would take charge of the nation of at least 104 million. Abacha's former deputy was sentenced to death in April for plotting to take power and never replaced.

Political tension was already running high in the run up to August 1 presidential elections, for which Abacha was the only candidate after his adoption by all five officially-approved political parties in April.

Abacha, who rarely appeared in public and kept to the tight security of his Aso Rock presidential villa in

BY MATTHEW TOSTEVIN
in Lagos

the capital Abuja, had not said he would run for the presidency. But he had done nothing to stop supporters mounting a huge campaign on his behalf with the full backing of state agencies.

Abacha's transition to civilian rule, announced under pressure from home and abroad in 1995, had been criticised as undemocratic by both local opponents and Western countries that imposed limited sanctions to press for reform.

At least seven people died in opposition protests against Abacha's rule last month and more demonstrations were planned for the run up to elections despite the arrest of dozens of activists.

Growing unease over political developments had put pressure on the naira currency, which has lost at least 14 percent of its value against the dollar this year and contributed to falling share prices.

Opposition to military rule has centred on southwestern Nigeria since the annulment of the 1993 elections as local millionaire Moshood Abiola was poised to win. Abiola was detained in 1994 for declaring himself president.

Abacha was a northerner, like most of the soldiers who have ruled Nigeria for all but 10 years since independence from Britain in 1960.

The plight of dozens of political prisoners, including Abiola, has been a major sticking point in relations with Nigeria's former Western allies. A possible extension of sanctions was threatened this year if Abacha did not improve his human rights record. But oil exports, which account for at least 95 per cent of foreign earnings, have not been targeted.

Born on 20 September 1943 in the northern state of Kano, Abacha was a career soldier, enrolling in the



General Sani Abacha, President of Nigeria, arriving at Freetown airport earlier this year; the military ruler died of a heart attack yesterday James Pasuekoi/AP

army as an infantryman at the age of 18 and attending military training colleges in the United Kingdom and United States as well as at home.

He became a familiar figure to Nigerians watching a succession of military governments come and go. When generals ousted the last civilian government in 1983, Abacha announced it on television.

Two years later, Abacha went on state-run TV to announce that dictator General Mohammed Buhari was being replaced by General Ibrahim Babangida.

Babangida would soon appoint Abacha his defence minister, and in 1993 he used his power to force Babangida's resignation amid the civil turmoil that followed the army's cancellation of civilian elections.

Babangida named a civilian government to rule in his place, but three months later Abacha was on television again, this time announcing that he had seized power himself. Abacha's bloodless coup at first brought hope for relief from the civil strife that developed after Babangida refused to accept the outcome of 1993 elections that were to have returned Nigeria to civilian rule. But the

continued detention of Moshood Abiola bore witness to the true nature of his regime.

Not even Wole Soyinka, winner of the 1986 Nobel prize for literature and a frequent government critic, was immune from Abacha's repression.

Tipped off that his arrest was imminent, Soyinka slipped out of Nigeria in 1994, saying the country was "retreating into the Dark Ages". That did not stop Abacha from charging him in absentia with treason, a crime punishable by death.

But no act drew such public condemnation as the 1995 hanging of environmentalist and playwright Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other political activists convicted in a closed military tribunal of conspiring in the slaying of political opponents.

Critics said the charges were false. Abacha's revenge for Saro-Wiwa's challenges to the military government and his criticism of the environmental damage wrought by the oil industry.

Hope for democracy vies with fears of bloodbath

THE DEATH of General Sani Abacha plunges Africa's most populous country into fresh uncertainty, poised between fears that another brutal military regime will assume power and fragile hopes that his disappearance could lead to more democratic government and the country's reacceptance by the international community.

The immediate concern in London last night was for stability, and the need to avoid a bloodbath that might be triggered by fighting among the military, or by civilian protests in support of a return of democracy. "Obviously what we want is the restoration of a democratic government," one official said, "but the important thing right now is to prevent civil order breaking down."

The odds, it was acknowledged, must be on another instalment of military rule to follow General Abacha, who took power in 1993 and established one of the world's most brutal regimes. "He was the worst of a bad bunch," a Western diplomat said, "but there are plenty of others who could take over." A spokesman for Amnesty International expressed the hope that Nigeria's human rights record would improve. "But we just don't know, we have to wait and see."

But some experts believe the prospect of oil sanctions had seriously worried the regime, and General Abacha's successor could seek to rebuild international fences. But the Commonwealth is split over Nigeria, whose case was being handled by an action group of eight members, CMAAG. Some, such as Canada, favoured draconian measures; others, including Malaysia and Zimbabwe, were more cautious - and they prevailed at the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh last October.

French pilots' strike heads for showdown

THE AIR France pilots' strike hardened yesterday into a battle of wills which could make or break the state-owned airline.

The company is expected to impose a disputed pay cut on its pilots, and withdraw a compensating offer of shares, at a special board meeting tomorrow. The largest pilots' union warned that, if this happened, they would "stay out of our aircraft... until the bitter end."

The dispute is also developing into one of the defining moments of the administration of Lionel Jospin. After slithering towards a classically French appeasement of the strikers last week, the Socialist-led government has now decided to back the hard line taken by Air France managers.

If this stand is maintained, it would be the first clear example of any French government, of right or left, holding the line against a malcontent special interest group in recent years.

In the middle of last week the government, under pressure from the Communist Transport Minister, Jean-Claude Gayssot, hinted that it would find taxpayers' cash to subsidise a compromise deal with the pilots. It emerged yesterday that such a subsidy, in the form of reduced employment charges, ran into adamant op-

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

position from the Finance Minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

At the end of the week, with the pilots holding out for even more, Mr Jospin decided to back his Finance Minister against the Transport Minister, a decision which could ultimately cause strife within the Socialist-Communist-Green coalition.

This was one reason why Air France was unable to meet the pilots' demands, sending the negotiations skidding off the runway on Saturday. There is also, however, a growing sense among other Air France employees that the largest pilots' union, the Société Nationale des Pilotes de Ligne (SNPL), has dangerously overplayed its cards. Four smaller unions representing pilots broke ranks with the SNPL yesterday and put forward a possible compromise settlement.

The fact that the eight-day-old strike has dragged on into the week of the opening game of the World Cup is intensely embarrassing for Air France and for the French government. But it has also removed the controls of the dispute from the pilots' hands. Little more damage can be done to the reputation of Air

France - or France. The management and government have therefore decided to tough it out with the pilots.

This new situation explains the SNPL's offer - accepted by management - to provide unpaid pilots for flights for World Cup teams and fans. It also explains Air France's decision to stop talking and impose a unilateral pay cut tomorrow.

By imposing a settlement, the government and the airline might at least rescue the planned partial privatisation of the national flag-carrier next autumn. The danger is that the airline will be left so weakened by a prolonged dispute that both an ambitious investment programme and the partial sell-off will be wrecked. If so, the whole future of Air France might be threatened.

Air France had asked pilots to take a 15 per cent pay cut in return for shares in the company. It agreed several concessions last week, including the restoration of the pay cuts after a number of years and the abolition of the separate pay-scales for new and long-serving pilots introduced a year ago. Talks broke off after the pilots insisted that the higher pay scale, not a compromise between the two, must be the basis for any agreement.

IN BRIEF

Yeltsin in Bonn

BORIS YELTSIN arrived in Germany yesterday to seek succour from his best foreign friend, Helmut Kohl.

As the men met in Bonn for talks, ahead of a G7 meeting in Paris this week, German officials made it clear that they were not inclined to offer bilateral foreign aid to Moscow, which is reeling after pressure on the ruble forced it briefly to raise interest rates to 150 per cent. Nor, on the face of it, is Moscow looking for any aid.

N-plant fury

DESPITE STRONG protest from anti-nuclear campaigners and neighbouring Austria, Slovakia yesterday started up its controversial nuclear power plant at Mochovce, 72 miles east of Austria, which has campaigned against its activation.

The Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima, condemned the start-up, as "an irresponsible and unfriendly act."

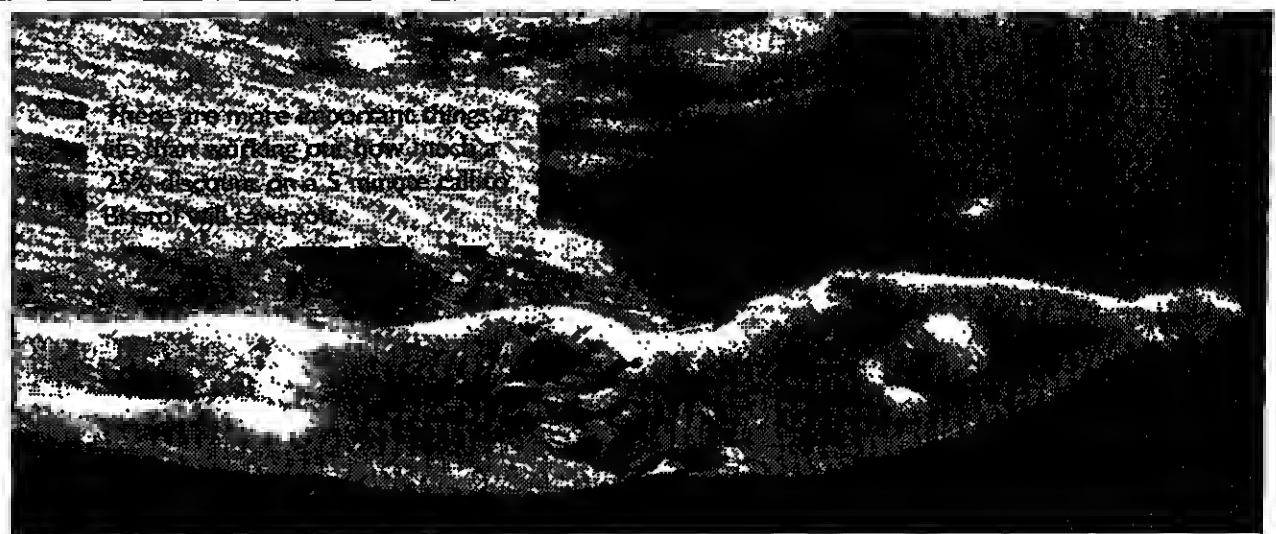
Singer charged

DANA INTERNATIONAL, the Israeli transsexual who won this year's Eurovision Song Contest, was charged yesterday with assaulting two waitresses.

Prosecutors allege that the singer, who denied the charges, pushed one of the waitresses and threw a bottle of water at another at a performance at a cafe in November 1995.

Island hopping

A FLYING column of grasshoppers at least 7 miles long swarmed into the capital of the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar yesterday, witnesses said. The government has set up a crisis cell to deal with the largest invasion.



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Jewish settlers step up pressure

IN A growing offensive against Palestinians living in and around the old city of Jerusalem, radical Jewish settlers yesterday took over four houses in the district of Silwan, just outside the city's Ottoman walls. The move came in the middle of the night and led to demonstrations in which Feisal Hussein, the senior Palestinian official in the city, was hit by a stone.

Elad, the Jewish settler group, said it had covertly bought the houses some time ago. Two weeks ago, Ateret Cohanim (the Crown of the

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

Priests), started building shacks to stake a claim to land close to Herod's Gate in the Muslim quarter of the old city. Silwan is the site of the so-called City of David and has long been targeted by settlers.

David Bar-Ilan, the spokesman for Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said: "This is absolutely a legal transaction." He said the authorities had no intention of evicting the settlers. The last Israeli government stopped Ateret Cohanim and Elad open-

ly taking over properties because an official report found they had illegally received government funds.

Feisal Hussein said: "Why do they have to come in the middle of the night? Why do they have to put up barbed wire?"

Elad renewed its campaign to take over houses in Silwan the day Mr Netanyahu was elected in 1996. It is extending its control on a spine of land below the Western Wall, sacred to Jews, and the Haram al-Sharif, on which stand the Muslim mosques of al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock.

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Stolen idol: the theft of a gold statue has left a trail of murder and revealed a murky Middle-Eastern underworld

Curse of ancient Babylon claims 13

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

IT IS a golden Babylonian statue 50cm high and it has already caused the violent death of 13 people. It is said to be worth at least \$1m and to have been stolen from the Iraqi museum in Baghdad and smuggled into Jordan.

The revelations about the statue and how its theft led to a spectacular string of murders in the Jordanian capital, Amman, follows the arrest of the killers after a gun battle with police late last month.

Jordanian police say that a quarrel over distribution of the profits from the sale of the statue in Europe led the smugglers, on 17 January, to stab to death Nazim Ochi, an Iraqi businessman who was working with them. The smugglers also killed seven others who were in the same villa as Mr Ochi, including the Iraqi deputy ambassador to Jordan, Hikmat al-Hajou.

The second crime was equally savage and occurred three months later. According to leaks from the Jordanian security services, one of the eight killers suffered a nervous breakdown following the murders he helped carry out. He visited a prominent psychiatrist in Amman, Dr Awad Saad, to discuss his troubles.

The conscience-stricken murderer may not have revealed details of his crime, but other members of the gang did not want to take a chance. On 8 April they visited Dr Saad's clinic and shot him dead. Minutes later, Hanna Naddey, one of Jordan's leading lawyers and a legal adviser to King Hussein, arrived, apparently by chance, with his son to visit Dr Saad. They were also gunned down.

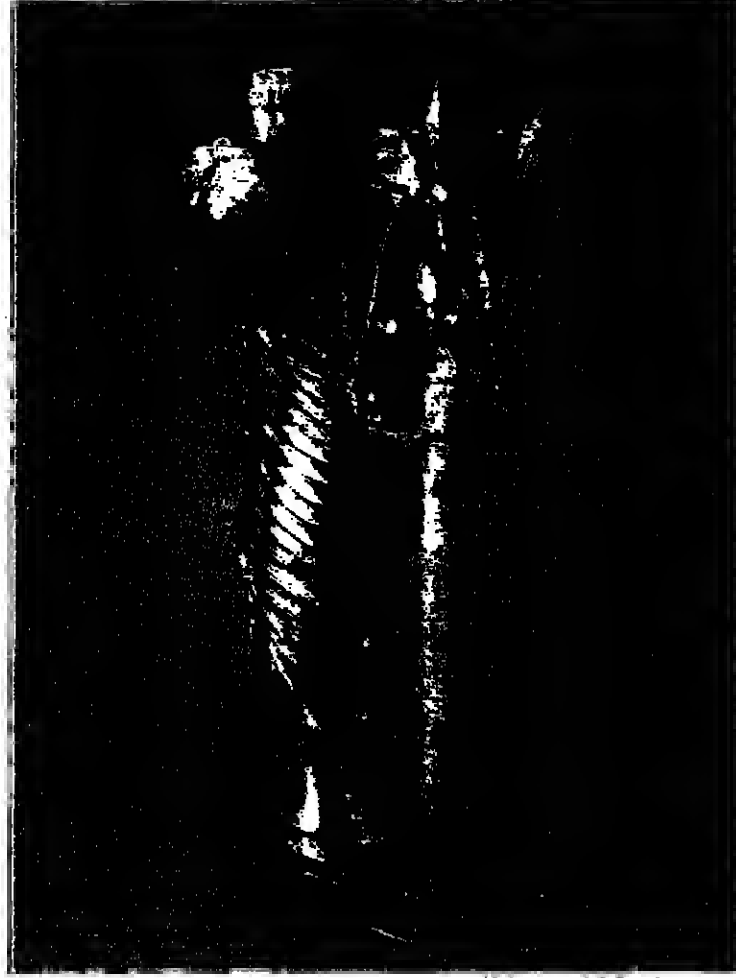
A week later, the gang carried out another murder, this time of a taxi driver who was one of their members. He was killed on 16 April and his body was left in the boot of a car in Wadi Sir in west Amman. Two weeks passed before it was discovered.

The breakthrough in the three cases came six weeks later. Police first arrested four suspects. One had Mr Naddey's credit card in his pocket. Then, accompanied by a special Jordanian army unit, led by Prince Abdullah, King Hussein's eldest son, they raided an apartment occupied by two men in the district of Sahhab, in south-east Amman, on 25 May. A gun battle followed. Three policemen were slightly wounded and one of the men in the apartment shot himself to death, according to a police statement.

The Jordanian government is



Headress, left, and figure of a goat, from the same excavation at Ur as the stolen golden statue



Photographs: Werner Forman Archive; British Museum



Hajou: murdered by the gang of smugglers AP

reticent about details of the crimes for two reasons. It does not want to stress Iraqi involvement as this might anger Baghdad, with whom it has had cool relations recently.

After the murders in January, Jordan hinted at the involvement of Iraqi security forces. "The stabbing was carried out by professional murderers," said Dr Moumin al-Hadid, director of forensic medicine at the police department in Amman.

In the wake of last month's arrests, Abdullah Nsour, Jordan's deputy prime minister, said: "Investigations show there are no political motives behind the crime. The motives were financial." However, an Iraqi observer said he doubted if a treasure from the Iraqi Museum, which has been shut since 1990, could have been removed without the connivance of somebody in authority in Baghdad.

Jordan is also keen not to shake the confidence of foreign investors.

Namir Ochi, the killers' first target, was from a well-known family of Chaldean Christians from Kirkuk in Iraq. He had limited private wealth and lived in Lebanon, but his brother Nazim, a long-term resident of the UK, controls companies worth \$1.2m.

Nazim is one of Jordan's largest private investors and King Hussein recently laid the foundation stone for a hotel complex in Amman being built by one of his companies. He stresses he has no business links with Baghdad.

Namir Ochi had never broken his links with Iraq, though in 1986 a third Ochi brother, Nasser, was executed for allegedly offering a bribe. General Muhi al-Din, head of Jordanian general security, says Namir owned a restaurant in Baghdad.

It was managed for him by Mohammed Omar Yusuf al-Jaghamin, a Palestinian born in Galilee, in what is now Israel, but with a Jordanian passport. General al-Din

says Jaghamin was the leader of the gang which helped Namir Ochi smuggle antiquities out of Iraq.

Iraq is one of the great archaeological treasure houses of the world. It was the site of the Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian civilisations. In 1990, in the expectation that the invasion of Kuwait would lead to war, the Iraqi Museum, in the heart of the capital, was closed.

Munwayyed Saeed, director general of Iraq's Department of Antiquities, told *The Independent* at the time that he had put the treasures, such as the gold and jewellery from the royal cemetery at Ur (2450BC), into the vaults of the central bank.

Seven years later the museum has not reopened, but the Arabic daily *Ash-Sharq al-Awsat* cites Jordanian security forces as saying that objects it once had on display are being smuggled abroad and sold.

Although Jordan is keen to play down the gang's Iraqi connection,

the smugglers were mostly Jordanian-Palestinians living in Baghdad. One had even served in the Iraqi army during the invasion of Kuwait.

They knew they were playing for high stakes: Iraq has executed people caught smuggling antiquities. They were being paid 10 per cent of the value of the goods they smuggled, but by the start of this year they had become convinced they were being short-changed by Namir Ochi.

At issue was the golden statue. According to police leaks, Namir told them he had sold it for \$1m. They believed the real figure to be far higher. On 17 January they came to exact revenge at a luxury house in the Rabiya district of Amman owned by an Iraqi businessman, also a Christian, called Sami George, 63. He lived there with his Greek girlfriend Dotsios Lidaki, 57, who was the only survivor of the evening.

From the beginning, the smugg-

lers demonstrated systematic ferocity. Sami George's red-tiled villa is isolated from other houses. Neighbours were unlikely to hear shouts and screams. In any case the killers used knives rather than guns.

First they knocked on the door. When it was answered by Mr George's Egyptian bodyguard they stabbed him to death along with an Egyptian friend.

Ms Lidaki says the killers tied up and gagged their victims. She says they spoke Arabic with Iraqi accents and were waiting for Namir Ochi. When he arrived, she said Ochi and the gang members "exchanged accusations, and the Iraqis said he owed them large sums of money. Ochi refused their demands, so they stabbed him and attacked all those present."

Ms Lidaki only survived because her throat was slashed rather than cut, and a knife thrust missed her heart. The murderers showed great

calmness, in that they stayed in the villa with their victims for three hours, waiting for Namir Ochi to arrive. Just before they left, Hikmat al-Hajou, the Iraqi deputy ambassador, drove up with his Egyptian-born wife, Leila Shaaban. Their late-night arrival is not surprising as it was iftar, the feast which ends the daily fast during the Muslim month of Ramadan. The diplomat and his wife were also killed.

Attention first focused on the death of Mr Hajou, despite Ms Lidaki's evidence that the killers' quarrel was with Mr Ochi. It was assumed they had fled the country, most probably to Iraq. In reality the gang, which had at least eight members, never left Amman. They might have escaped had one of their members not sought psychiatric help from Dr Saad. Once again they were determined to leave no witnesses.

Mr Naddey, 75, a prominent businessman as well as a lawyer, and his son Suhail, 34, lost their lives because they saw Dr Saad's car outside his clinic and could not understand why he wouldn't answer when they rang the bell. When Mr Naddey told his son to call the police, the killers opened the door and shot both of them dead.

Six of the gang are now in prison in Jordan and two are dead. A seventh member, said by some to be the organiser of the smuggling operation, has escaped to Europe. Nobody knows the fate of the golden statue from Babylon, whose ability to ignite violence so resembles the story of the 1940s film *The Maltese Falcon*.

Archaeologists also want to know if somebody is systematically looting and smuggling abroad the treasures of the ancient civilisations of Iraq.

Sports Supporter Nicky Clarke.

The 1998 FIFA World Cup is being held in France. Nicky Clarke, a sports supporter, is seen in a crowd of fans, cheering and holding a flag.



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BUSINESS

Banks given Asia warning

BRIEFING

Report warns of economic weaknesses

A YEAR ago the economists of the Bank for International Settlements saw some of the potential tensions in East Asia that lead to the collapses there.

Now they warn of continuing tensions as the dollar climbs and the US current account deficit mounts; a European Central Bank struggling to balance the different monetary needs of core and fringe Europe; and an Asian crisis that is still far from resolved. Hamish McRae examines the new BIS report, page 21.



Unigate still wants parts of Hillsdown

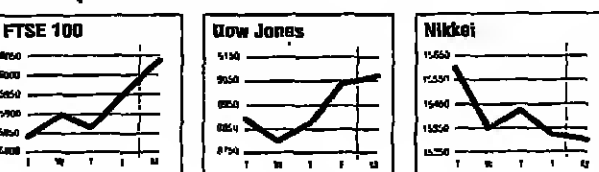
UNIGATE, the fresh foods and dairy group which dramatically abandoned a £1.6bn bid for Hillsdown Holdings last month, said yesterday that it remained interested in acquiring parts of Hillsdown but was unlikely to launch another bid. "We can't see the circumstances under which we would go back for the whole of Hillsdown," said Sir Ross Buckland, Unigate's chief executive. Investment Column 23.

British Land attacks tax changes

INNER CITY redevelopment is being held back because of the government's "insidious" and "unpredictable" tax system, said a key developer, British Land, yesterday.

The company reported a 39 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £127.2m, but said tax changes had limited its increased net asset value to 52p instead of 62p. Investment Column 23.

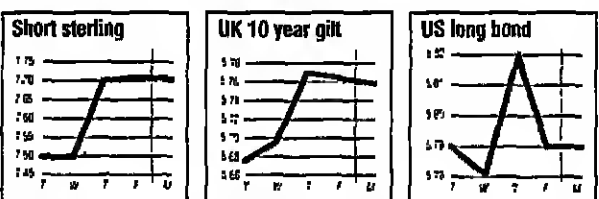
STOCK MARKETS



Dow Jones index and graph in form

Index	Close	Change	Change %	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield %
FTSE 100	6037.80	90.50	1.52	6150.50	4392.80	3.87
FTSE 250	5950.30	25.70	0.43	5935.00	4384.20	3.02
FTSE 350	2935.80	38.10	1.32	2938.70	2141.00	3.71
FTSE All Share	2668.10	35.30	1.35	2861.12	2106.59	3.66
FTSE SmallCap	2782.70	7.30	0.26	2793.80	2184.10	2.95
FTSE 100 Div	1516.50	8.40	0.56	1511.00	1225.20	2.97
FTSE AIM	1149.80	2.50	0.20	1144.60	965.90	1.08
FTSE EBLDC 100	1064.77	8.33	0.79			
Dow Jones	9069.35	29.40	0.33	9261.91	6971.32	1.57
Nikkei	15294.71	-28.72	-0.19	20910.79	14488.21	1.00
Hang Seng	8596.63	17.16	0.20	16820.31	7909.13	4.81
Dax	5779.09	90.50	1.59	5688.73	3487.24	2.75

INTEREST RATES

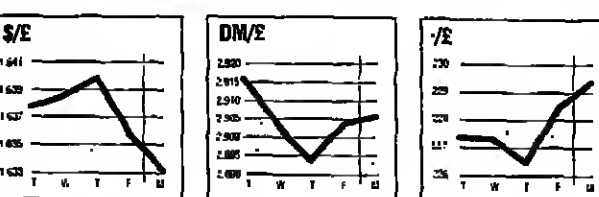


Index	2 months	1 yr	5 yr	10 yr	1 yr	5 yr	10 yr	1 yr	5 yr	10 yr
UK	7.69	1.00	7.69	0.63	5.76	1.29	5.50	1.60		
US	5.69	-0.13	5.88	-0.34	5.58	-0.96	5.79	-1.04		
Japan	0.55	-0.05	0.58	-0.36	1.44	-1.30	1.95	-1.31		
Germany	3.56	0.41	3.86	0.56	4.85	-0.95	5.40	-1.20		

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
Wymond 2030.00 130.00 5.84	Serra Group 2602.5 140 5.89
Schroders NV 1605.00 100.00 6.64	Schroders 1841 96 5.5
Telewest 120.00 7.00 6.19	Sigmet group 51.25 2.5 5.13
Woodward 355.00 19.75 5.59	Glynwed Intl 297.5 14 5.11
Royal & Scot 1127.00 62.00 5.82	Calm Energy 330 15 4.76

CURRENCIES



Unit	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago	Unit	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6330	-0.27c	1.6356	Swedish	0.6124	+0.10p	0.6114
D-Mark	2.9061	+0.45pf	2.7913	D-Mark	1.7785	+0.35pf	1.7067
Yen	229.49	+¥1.08	185.25	Yen	140.55	+¥0.90	112.99
S. Index	103.80	+0.00	99.60	S. Index	112.10	+0.40	103.00

OTHER INDICATORS

at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago	Index	Change	Yr ago	Next Day	
Brent Oil (\$)	13.60	-0.20	17.20	GDP	114.70	2.90	111.47
Gold (\$)	292.95	1.30	343.65	RPI	162.60	4.00	156.35
Silver (\$)	5.26	0.02	4.90	Base Rates	7.50	6.50	

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SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

EXCHANGE RATES

Australia (\$)	2.6384	Japan (yen)	224.99
Austria (schillings)	19.76	Malaysia (ringgits)	6.2436
Belgium (francs)	58.09	Malta (lira)	0.6171
Canada (\$)	2.3224	Netherlands (guilder)	3.1671
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8246	New Zealand (\$)	3.0813
Denmark (krone)	10.79	Norway (krone)	11.88
Finland (markka)	8.0026	Portugal (escudos)	285.12
France (francs)	9.4374	Singapore (\$)	2.5665
Germany (marks)	2.8234	Spain (pesetas)	238.48
Greece (drachma)	475.99	South Africa (rand)	8.0923
Hong Kong (\$)	12.26	Sweden (krone)	12.50
Ireland (pounds)	1.1140	Switzerland (francs)	2.3937
India (rupees)	62.58	Thailand (bahts)	64.14
Israel (shekels)	5.4980	Turkey (liras)	404591
Italy (lira)	2783	USA (\$)	1.5940

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FINANCIAL MARKETS and policy-makers are in danger of complacency in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis, according to a hard-hitting new analysis from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

In its annual report on the past year's events in the global capital markets, the central bankers' central bank gives a sharp caution that the blame for the turmoil cannot be placed on the afflicted Asian countries alone. Banks and investors had lent incautiously in a herd-like fashion, and are still doing so, it says.

The report, published the day the dollar surged to a new seven-year high above ¥140, also warns of emerging imbalances in the world economy due to the strength of the US currency.

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The report's figures show that Asia suffered a massive reversal of capital flows, with a \$62bn inflow in the first half of 1997 turning into a \$100bn outflow in the second half. But total bank lending and other activity in the international capital markets soared. Gross bank lending totalled \$1.3tn, up from \$551.8tn in 1996.

The BIS concludes: "The financial services industry has clearly entered a period of sharply increased competition and some banks may have been tempted to engage in unusually risky business." Banks had "generally ignored" signs of mounting risks in Asia. Although it accepts the need for

thorough financial reform and increased transparency in the affected countries, the report questions whether the current patchwork of national regulatory structures is adequate to supervise an industry increasingly consolidated across borders.

The reaction to future crises must include a better response from lenders themselves, with the private sector needing "to take some responsibility for the ongoing provision of credit to customers to whom they had previously lent all too freely."

If it turned out that individual banks had underestimated the risks because they were unaware of the total scale of lending in Asia, "this would in itself provide an argument for some

form of public policy intervention," the BIS said. But it pointed out that its own annual report 12 months ago had drawn attention to over-investment in the region.

The one group of investors exonerated of any responsibility for the crisis are hedge-fund managers like George Soros. They had cut back their exposure long before it began, whereas banks continued lending up to the last minute, the report concludes.

In its general assessment of the state of the world economy, the BIS remains optimistic about growth in the US and UK, but cautious about the outlook for the euro-member countries and Japan.

The biggest risk for the US is posed

by the overvalued dollar - the report cites studies showing it could be as much as 40-50 per cent overvalued against the yen.

A yawning US trade deficit could trigger either a sharp drop in the currency at some stage, which in turn could trigger inflation, prompt higher interest rates and burst the share price bubble. Alternatively, it could give rise to protectionist measures.

The report said the transition to the euro had gone remarkably smoothly but dangers remained in the pressure that expensive social security systems would place on government finances. "Fiscal balances could deteriorate sharply in coming decades," it warns.

Outlook, page 19

Wells Fargo and Norwest announce £21bn merger

BY LEA PATTERSON

Recent US banking deals

April 7: Travelers Group and Citicorp announce \$70bn merger.

April 14: BankAmerica and NationsBank say they are to join forces in \$80bn deal.

Bank One and First Chicago NBD announce \$30bn link-up.

April 22: Bank of New York launches \$25bn bid for Mellon Bank. Bid is withdrawn one month later after Mellon rebuffs Bank of New York's approach.

June 8: Wells Fargo and Norwest announce \$35bn deal.

TWO MORE US banks have announced plans to tie the knot, the fourth multi-billion-pound deal in the industry since April.

Wells Fargo, based in San Francisco, and Norwest Corporation, of Minneapolis, are to join forces in a \$35bn (£21bn) merger. The new bank, to be called Wells Fargo & Company, will be the US's seventh largest in terms of asset size and fourth largest in terms of market capitalisation.

News of the deal sent US stocks soaring in early trade. Wells Fargo was up \$4.25 at \$37.50, while Norwest was trading down \$2.12½ at \$37.56¼.

Richard M Kovacevich, chairman and chief executive of Norwest and president and chief executive designate of the new company, said the merger would unite high-performing companies with complementary businesses, products, markets, technology and customers.

As with the recent tie-ups between NationsBank/BankAmerica and Banc One/First Chicago, the rationale for the deal was primarily cost-cutting, according to most analysts. The two banks hope to save at least \$650m in costs a year by the third year after the merger.

The two banks yesterday tried to play down fears of job cuts, saying any lay-offs would be "minimal".

Analysts added that Norwest, seen as one of the industry's stars, could revitalise Wells Fargo, which has been beset by difficulties in recent years following its \$11.8bn acquisition of First

Interstate, the Los Angeles-based bank.

One analyst commented: "Norwest will try and rejuvenate a franchise which has been pretty beaten up."

The deal will be seen as yet another success story for Warren Buffett, the legendary billionaire investor, and a long-term shareholder in Wells Fargo.

Mr Buffett's most recent annual letter to shareholders in his Berkshire Hathaway investment vehicle revealed that the US investment guru held a 7.4 per cent stake in Wells Fargo at the end of 1997, slightly down from the 8 per cent stake he held at the end of 1996.

Ironically, Mr Buffett recently warned of the dangers of the consolidation wave currently sweeping through the US banking industry. Mr Buffett told shareholders at his company's recent annual general meeting: "I think when you get all through with this, you'll find that some of them are real hits and some of them are misses. They're very big and those aren't easy to do."

The Wells Fargo/Norwest merger - dubbed a "merger of equals" by the two banks - is the fourth in the US banking industry since April, when

Travelers Group kicked off the latest round of merger fever with a \$70bn tie-up with Citicorp.

The Wells Fargo deal will create a banking powerhouse with 90,000 employees, 20 million customers and \$191bn assets under management. It will have the largest bank-owned insurance agency, be the US's leading commercial real estate lender and rank first in mortgage originations and servicing.

Paul Hazen, currently chairman and chief executive of Wells Fargo, will become chairman of the new bank.

Nancy Bnsh, a bank analyst at Ryan Beck & Co, said: "It's a great deal. Everyone in the middle of the country and west has to sit up and take notice."

Some analysts, though, were sceptical about the prospects for the group in the short- to medium-term, citing the problems experienced by Wells Fargo when it successfully completed a \$11.8bn hostile bid for First Interstate, a rival Californian bank.

The Wells Fargo/First Interstate tie-up, initially hailed as an out-and-out success, soon ran into difficulties when integrating the two networks hit profitability and service levels.

Gas-fired electricity stations under threat

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

MORE THAN a dozen gas-fired power stations are facing the axe as part of the Government's plans to secure the future of the coal industry. The total is thought to include a number of stations which have already been given planning consent.

Applications have been submitted to the Department of Trade and Industry to build a further 21 gas-fired stations with a total generating capacity of nearly 8,000 megawatts - enough to replace 22 million tonnes of coal or the output of eight to ten pits.

However, in addition to these outstanding applications, there are a further nine gas-fired stations with a combined output of 5,700 megawatts that already have section 36 planning consent. Six of these projects are out to tender.

The Government's coal rescue plan, which is expected to be unveiled this week, will either extend the existing moratorium on gas-fired stations or make consents extremely difficult to obtain. This means that many of the projects are unlikely to see the light of day, with serious knock-on effects for job creation.

One of the biggest casualties of the coal deal is likely to be BP's Baglan Bay project in South Wales - a £500m scheme to build an 1,100 megawatt gas-fired station in an area of high unemployment. Up to 3,000 jobs are resting on the project.

Other large stations awaiting approval include two plants at Rhosgob and Fleetwood which the Canatx Energy consortium has applied to build and an 1,125 megawatt station at Enderby proposed by Scottish Power. There are about 14,000 megawatts of gas-fired plant in operation and a further 4,300 megawatts under construction.

Electricity industry executives believe that some stations which are in the very early stages of construction, such as National Power's 1,500 megawatt Staythorpe plant, could be vulnerable.

The Government's measures to safeguard coal are likely to save about 2,000 to 3,000 jobs in the short-term. But the power station developers argue that many more jobs in the upstream gas industry and construction could disappear as a result.

The industry regulator and the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee have both come down against continuing the moratorium on gas-fired stations. The select committee is expected to repeat those criticisms in a report being published today which will take a sideswipe at the hurried nature of the Government's current energy review.

The report is likely to reiterate that there is no case for blocking the building of further gas stations and little evidence that security of supply is an issue.

However, the MPs are likely to repeat their warning in April that there is a case for maintaining the coal industry at a given size, although they are unlikely to specify a figure.

Outlook, page 19

New Mini to be sold in US for first time

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE MINI is set to go on sale in America for the first time when it appears in its new incarnation at the turn of the millennium. The latest version of the world's best selling small car is likely to be sold in the US through BMW's dealer network.

However, the greatest demand for the new Mini is likely to come from Japan - already the biggest market in the world for the car.

BMW, which acquired the famous marque when it bought Rover in 1994, yesterday announced plans to distribute and sell the new Mini separately through a hand-picked network of dealers. In the UK alone, more than £100m will be invested in the Mini dealer network, drawn from existing Rover Cars dealerships. Sales of the car in the rest of the world, with the exception of Japan, will be handled through BMW dealerships.

Production is due to begin in 2000 and will reach 100,000 a year - six times current output. The new Mini will cost at least £12,000 compared with £9,500 for the current version and £436 for the original version designed by Sir Alex Issigonis in 1959.

The £400m investment in the new Mini will safeguard 2,500 jobs at



The new Mini being unveiled at the Frankfurt Motor Show last September

Reuters

Rover's Longbridge plant in Birmingham. Production of the current Mini is running at 17,000 a year - of which half are exported to Japan.

The new Mini was unveiled briefly

at the Frankfurt Motor Show last September, since when it has gone back under wraps. The original car began life as a doodle by Sir Alex on a cigarette packet and was one of the

first front-wheel drive cars. The new Mini will have to same compact dimensions but much more advanced technology, particularly in the area of safety.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

Shares moved ahead strongly over a wide front. Footsie, for the first time since mid-April, topped 6,000 points, up 90.5 to 6,037.8. Second and third line shares also did well. Trading, however, was not heavy. New York's ebullient Friday performance and its continuing strength yesterday was mainly responsible for London's display. Banks led the charge, as investors anticipated more take over action on this side of the Atlantic following the latest US bank merger. Royal Bank of Scotland jumped 6p to 1.12p.

See market report, page 23.

TOKYO

Tokyo stocks ended slightly lower as the dollar broke above the ¥140 level and the approaching settlement of futures and options contracts on Friday scared many away from the market. The Nikkei average of 225 selected issues closed at 15,294.71, down 28.72 points, while the broader-based Tokyo Stock 1st Index of all first-section listed issues finished 3.58 points lower at 1,198.36. Traders said the lack of activity was related to the yen falling to a new seven-year low.

FRANKFURT

Germany's DAX Xetra Index rose to a record high with investors optimistic that the Bundesbank will refrain from raising interest rates this week and as the US market continued to climb. Mannesmann, the German machinery and telecommunications company, led gainers after a 10-for-1 stock split on Friday and before its planned share sale for 24 June to finance its European expansion in telecommunications. Germany's benchmark DAX Xetra Index of 30 companies rose 62.29 points, or 1.09 per cent, to a high of 5787.04.

PARIS

French stocks rose on optimism profits will soar as companies grow through overseas expansion. That offset a decline by Elf Aquitaine SA after oil prices fell. The benchmark CAC 40 Index gained 19.53 points, or 0.5 per cent, to 4204.58, its 37th record close this year. Computer services company Cap Gemini SA gained 49 francs to 912, the biggest rise on the CAC Index. The shares have gained 89 percent this year amid hopes that demand for its services will be boosted by the European single currency.

NEW YORK

New York stocks moved higher as news of another multibillion merger deal in the bank sector helped the market build on Friday's strong rally, when the Dow Jones surged 167 points to close above 9000 for the first time since May.

Worries about the direction of interest rates pressured bonds ahead of Wednesday's congressional testimony by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan. But bonds continued to receive support from the strong dollar and its advance against the yen.

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So much for the free market

DESPITE ITS vastly-reduced size, the coal industry continues to command a horrible fascination among politicians, which in turn enables it to punch way beyond its weight in any debate about energy policy. This week, government lawyers willing, the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, will finally unveil the rescue plan for the pits. It will preserve a few thousand jobs short-term in the mining industry at the expense of a few thousand jobs in the gas and construction industries. The bigger cost, however, threatens to be New Labour's hard-won reputation as the party of business and the Government that favours robust competition.

Before anyone gets too sanctimonious it should be recognised that energy generation has never been a perfect market. Government subsidies have interfered in it at will for reasons of dogma and political expediency. Generally, the consumer has been the loser. The previous government imposed a nuclear levy on every electricity bill to make sure the country could never again be held to ransom by the miners. Until the coal crisis burst in just before Christmas, the present administration was happy to keep the dash for gas going at full pelt.

Now ministers have given in to the argument that a guaranteed



OUTLOOK

section of the market should be kept aside for coal. Issues such as whether it is price-competitive and the environmental impact of burning more coal come a poor second to the overriding objective of preserving the pits. Thus the generators will have their arms twisted to buy more coal from RJB Mining, with the threat that a break-up of their cosy monopoly may otherwise be on the horizon. The trade off is that a halt on further gas-fired power stations means no new competition in the generating market.

This is a poor excuse for an energy policy - as the Labour-dominated Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee is about to observe. Worse, it is a missed opportunity for Labour to demonstrate that it means what it says when it talks about open markets.

Responsibility in markets

THE BANK for International Settlements in Basle is about as grey and sober an institution as they come, run by bankers for bankers. Its annual report, packed with figures and charts, is not a document for the sensation-seeking. But for all the austere and measured language, this year's edition packs a strong punch. Its bottom line: the Asian crisis is far from over, and the riotous financial markets that gave birth to it have not been changed by the experience either.

There are two ways of looking at what happened in the Far East. One is to regard it as essentially a crisis of capitalism, proof positive that capitalism with its tendency towards the extremes of boom and bust is fundamentally flawed. Nor are those who see it this way confined to old-fashioned left-wingers eager to see capitalism at last sowing the seeds of its own destruction. Jeffrey Sachs at Harvard University could hardly be described as left-leaning yet he argues powerfully that the stresses the markets have imposed on countries like Indonesia and Malaysia would have tested any economy, the UK included, to the point of destruction.

However, for staunch defenders of the free-market faith there is an

other way of looking at it. Asia's problem can be diagnosed as a narrow crisis of crony capitalism, rather than a broader setback. After years of being told that the eastern version of capitalism was superior to the classic western one, this is certainly a rather pleasing way of looking at the whole thing. Blatant political corruption and the very weak financial systems of the countries concerned have given this view powerful ammunition.

The BIS report is a timely reminder that such black-and-white interpretations are rarely valid. Andrew Crockett, a former Bank of England apparatchik and now general manager of the BIS, paints a much greyer but probably rather truer version of events. Neither interpretation is wholly correct, the BIS argues.

Yes, some parts of Asia's banking system and capital markets have turned out to be utterly inadequate. Their political and economic institutions have also proved unequal to the task of coping with the full force of financial markets. On the other hand, the herd-like tendency of banks and investors, their ability to ignore clear warning signals and take excessive risks, amounts to a clear structural weakness within the free market system.

New crisis-prevention measures have focused on getting the Asians to

buck up their act, with improved transparency and reformed banking systems, and on beefing up reaction and response from the International Monetary Fund. But the implication of yesterday's report is that the private sector players who make up the markets have to play their part too. It is next to impossible to force responsibility on financial markets, but they had better start doing it of their own volition if they want to survive. Otherwise the next crisis could indeed be one of capitalism.

Truth of the Goldman float

IF, AS SEEMS highly likely, the partners of Goldman Sachs opt for a \$35bn stock market flotation of their investment bank at a meeting to decide the issue next Friday, it will have nothing to do with wanting to enrich themselves. That, at least is what they say, and since all of them already earn more money than they can possibly know what to do with, there may be something in what they say. So what is the reason? Well, they insist, it is to do with our old friend, capital efficiency.

One of the problems with a partnership is that there is a constant leakage of capital out of the business as older partners retire and realise the fruits of their labour. With a vast-

ing capital base of this type, the business has to run overtime. It is faced with the task not just of servicing the capital, but of earning sufficient to replace it as well.

This, it is claimed, puts a partnership at a significant competitive disadvantage to incorporated investment banks as well as making it virtually impossible to acquire businesses of any size. Goldman Sachs is at present the best at most of what it does, but there is a real fear that unless it incorporates it will begin to lag.

There may be something in these arguments but they are early reminders of the sort of thing said by the converting building societies as they hurtled down the path to flotation. One of the justifications used by the building societies for conversion is that it would give them greater access to capital.

Since flotation, they have all been repaying their capital by the lorry load; as it transpired, they already had more capital than they could sensibly use. So let's be honest about this, shall we guys? Conversion of a partnership or mutually owned organisation into a publicly listed company is about the present generation of owners cashing in their chips at the expense of future generations. We can all desperately search for a higher purpose, but the reality is a more down to earth and self-interested one.

Internet shopping: Virtual retailing is expected to grow into a £900m business in two years' time

Smith's turns to on-line retailing

WH SMITH'S announcement yesterday that it is paying £9.4m for The Internet Bookshop, a three-year-old on-line bookseller, is just the latest example of major retailers starting to take this new medium seriously.

A couple of weeks ago The Gap announced that it was to start selling its preppy casual clothes on an Internet web site for the first time. That followed a decision by Sainsbury's to extend its home delivery service — with an Internet ordering option — to 30 stores.

But books, along with CDs, are seen as one of the key sectors which could see rapid growth on-line. For customers who know what they want, buying books and music over the Internet can be cheaper and more convenient, as well as providing access to a far greater range than even the largest conventional stores can ever offer.

For example the Internet Bookshop's web site, which trades under the name bookshop.co.uk, offers customers 1.4m titles and it can cut the price of popular titles by up to 40 per cent.

"The electronic commerce market is currently relatively small but we expect it to develop significantly over the next few years," said Richard Handover, WH Smith's chief executive yesterday. "The WH Smith brand has good potential to trade competitively in this market particularly as the customer base broadens."

Industry figures back up his confidence. The UK on-line market was worth only £200m last year but is predicted to grow to £800m by 2000. Books and music are the fourth most popular product type in on-line re-

BY NIGEL COPE

tail after computer products, travel and entertainment. On-line book sales are said to be running at only around £20m in the UK at the moment but are doubling every year. "Books are one of the hottest items on the web," said Ross Beadle, the Internet Bookshop's marketing director.

There has certainly been a rush of activity in Internet bookselling in recent months. In April Amazon.com, the largest Internet bookseller, paid \$55m for three Internet businesses including bookpages.co.uk, to give it access to the UK market. Last October Dillons and Hamicks, two UK chains, announced plans for a joint venture in on-line bookselling. This followed a move by Waterstone's to increase the number of books on its web site from 90,000 to over a million to compete with Amazon which claims to stock over 2.5m titles.

It is clear that the traditional book retailers such as Smith's and Waterstone's realise that the "virtual retailers" such as Amazon, offer a significant competitive threat as they have lower costs because they do not have expensive store portfolios.

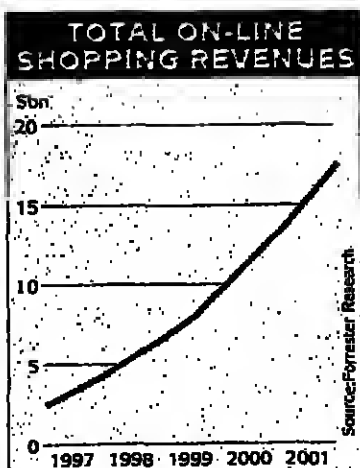
So while going on-line themselves might risk cannibalising sales in their shops, the traditional retailers feel having an on-line presence is the best form of protection.

City analysts took this view yesterday saying Smith's move would help it defend itself against Amazon. After selling Waterstone's a couple of months ago, Smith's only had a tiny Internet presence through its WH Smith Retail web site. "They probably felt a little exposed not being in



Book-buyers are increasingly browsing on-line, not in traditional stores such as Books etc, pictured

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz



On-line sales by product			
FIGURES IN \$M			
	1997	1998	2001
PC hardware & software	\$863	\$1616	\$3766
Travel	\$654	\$1523	\$7443
Entertainment	\$298	\$591	\$2678
Books & music	\$156	\$288	\$1084
Gifts, flowers & greetings	\$149	\$264	\$802
Clothing & footwear	\$92	\$157	\$514
Other	\$232	\$389	\$1100
TOTAL:	\$2444	\$4828	\$17,387

Source: Forrester Research Inc

that market so they've done the right thing getting back into it," said Iain McDonald at Charterhouse Tilney.

Richard Perks at Verdict, the retail consultants, was equally supportive. "Books are products that lend themselves to the internet — you don't actually need to see the product to know what it is you are buying."

"The question is whether the Internet can offer something that is substantially better than existing book shops in terms of choice and price and that is developing on an almost daily basis."

He added that the expansion of the Internet book retailing market would increase the prospect of an on-line price war that could spread to high

street stores. Traditional operators like Smith's and Waterstone's are already under threat from US competitors such as Borders, which acquired the Books etc chain last year.

While Smith's deal might make strategic sense it is paying 265p per share for a business whose shares were trading at 85p last Friday. It is

also paying various option holders an additional £600,000. The company admits it does not expect to make "significant financial returns" from this area in the short term.

Bookshop.co.uk recorded losses of £406,000 last year on sales of £2.2m. It was set up in 1992 by Darryl Mattocks as an information technology consultancy before becoming bookshop.co.uk in 1994. The same year it raised £1m after joining OFEX, the market for unlisted companies. Of its £213,000 assets, £212,000 is cash.

Mr Mattocks, who resigned from the board a couple of months ago to pursue other interests, still holds around a third of the shares and so will net £3m from the deal.

The existing executive management team will stay on to develop the business. It plans to continue its pricing policy which sees the largest discounts offered to first time buyers and targeted at the most popular titles. Discounts are then gradually reduced on subsequent purchases, though the company says this does not deter customers as more than half its sales are repeat business.

TUC slump warning

THE BANK of England comes under fresh fire over its recent decision to increase the cost of borrowing in a report published today. The new attack, from the TUC, came as the latest figures confirmed that inflation at the factory gate has all but vanished while spending on the high street could be slowing down.

The TUC insists that, contrary to statements from the Bank and the Treasury, recent pay deals have been "responsible and moderate". Average earnings growth also had to be set against the cost of living, now rising at 4 per cent. The general secretary, John Monks, said wage responsibility must lie with company directors. In its report, the TUC also argues that as manufacturing was moving

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

into recession, the service sector of the economy was slowing down.

Yesterday's figures made plain once again the absence of any kind of inflationary pressure in manufacturing. "Core" prices charged by manufacturers, excluding the erratic food, drink and petroleum components, were the same last month as a year earlier.

It was the first time in 31 years that underlying inflation at the factory gate has fallen to zero. This is due to the falling cost of materials, which has allowed manufacturers to offset their higher wage bills. Prices rose 0.3 per cent in May but remained 8.9 per cent

lower than a year earlier.

If sales growth on the high street slows down, the good news on inflation could yet feed through to retail prices. In its May survey, the British Retail Consortium reported stable sales growth. The value of sales rose 0.4 per cent in the year to May, down from 0.8 per cent in April.

Like-for-like sales growth dipped from 5.7 per cent to 3.7 per cent.

However, yesterday's figures will be of little interest to the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee compared to the next official statistics on average earnings and the jobs market, due next week. These will reveal how far the surge in measured wage growth was due to one-off bonuses, as the TUC alleges in today's report.

SDX directors to get £20m

FOUR DIRECTORS of SDX, the telecommunications equipment group, will share more than £20m after agreeing to a takeover bid by Lucent Technologies, the US giant that was recently spun off from AT&T.

The cash offer, which is pitched at 325p a share, values SDX at £124m — a massive increase in value since the company agreed a management buy-out from Northern Telecom, the telecom equipment company, for about £5m in 1991. The bid is also double the price at which SDX floated on the stock exchange in 1996.

Frank Bretherton, the chief executive, has a stake of about 9 per cent in the company, which yesterday's bid values at £10.79m. Marketing director Jeremy Cooke will receive £4.4m

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

while Robert Kennedy, a former finance director, will pocket £5.07m. Maurice Pinto, the non-executive chairman, gets £2.88m.

Mr Cooke said that SDX had first started talking to Lucent in April, before announcing that it was in talks last month. He said that being part of a huge US company would give SDX the muscle to compete overseas. "We can put our products through their channels worldwide," he said, adding that Lucent's huge research division and brand-name would be an added bonus. No jobs would be lost as part of the takeover, he said.

Lucent, meanwhile, gets the benefit of SDX's telecom technology,

which is aimed specifically at small and medium-sized businesses. Bill O'Shea, the president of Lucent's business communications systems division, said: "SDX brings additional strength to Lucent in certain key products and technologies."

The company has taken market share from giants such as British Telecom with its Index technology, which allows companies to operate voicemail systems.

The directors, who between them control more than 20 per cent of the share capital, have agreed to accept the offer. However, analysts said a higher bid from a competing telecom company was still possible. The shares closed down 2p at 326.5p — still a premium to the offer price.

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Forecasters fall foul of passing fashions

ANYONE TRYING to forecast what will happen to the world economy is going to get things wrong.

The great thing about the Bank for International Settlements' annual report – more a commentary on the world of finance than a regular bank report – is that it acknowledges and defines the areas of uncertainty. Unlike the research departments of the commercial financial institutions, which feel they have to give a firm view of future developments, the BIS can stand back and think. This may not be quite so useful for people wanting to be told whether to buy or sell, but for anyone trying to understand what is happening it is a breath of fresh air.

In its analysis of the world economic situation, the BIS focuses on the way things turned out differently last year from previous expectations: the United States and UK did not slow down as expected, and the Japanese recovery failed to sustain itself. In the rest of Europe, small countries tended to grow swiftly while the larger ones underperformed. Yet inflation in the small countries was actually lower than in the big.

To understand the future you have first to understand the present, and one of the most useful things the BIS report does is to explain why things are not what they might have been. In particular it hints at the unsustainable nature of the US and UK expansions, where inflationary pressures have only been held down by rises in the dollar and the pound, and where the current accounts have accordingly deteriorated.

However, the BIS also points out an aspect of the US expansion which I had not fully grasped: the extent to which investment in information technology might have increased the potential for growth. The chart on the left is derived from some statistics the BIS dug out on IT investment, which last year took 20 per cent of total investment in the States. The information industry now accounts for 4 per cent of US output, against only 0.8 per cent in 1992. If you exclude the information industry, real GDP would have only grown at an average of 2.2 per cent over that period. As it was, real output rose by 2.9 per cent a year. In addition, the growth of the information industry helped hold down inflation: strip out information and inflation would have averaged 3 per cent over the period. In fact, inflation was only 2.4 per cent. If one wants a single example of American exceptionalism, this is perhaps the best.

To some extent it must also apply to the UK, where the information industry is also expanding very fast, but it would be nice to see some figures to confirm this. Worryingly, the BIS does note that continental European investment in general has been rather low, and accordingly the spare capacity there is less than might be expected. This is bad news for the continent's unemployed, for it suggests that there might be high residual unemployment, even when the economies are at full capacity.



HAMISH MCRAE

One of the most useful things the BIS report does is to explain why things are not what they might have been

An even bigger surprise than the divergent performance of the main developed countries last year was of course the abysmal performance of what had been the fastest-growing region, East Asia. It would not have been a complete surprise to anyone who read the previous year's BIS report, which did warn of the excessive investment that was taking place, and the price bubbles that were a-brewing in the property markets. The region was clearly vulnerable to any sharp fall-off in demand, but what everyone had failed to spot was the way in which the decline in demand would interact with a frag-

ile financial system and companies heavily burdened with debt.

What no-one really saw was the way in which the short-term response to the financial crisis, sharp devaluations, would hit growth prospects and thereby put even more pressure on the region's banks and companies. The right-hand graph shows how estimates for the 1998 growth of the crisis-hit four (Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia and Thailand) were cut during the second half of 1997, as their currencies simultaneously collapsed.

Normally you might expect a devaluation to boost growth by encouraging exports and leading to import substitution. In this case, because one country's exports were another country in the region's imports, the devaluations had the effect of depressing the whole region.

What happens next? The BIS believes that asset prices have not been inflated by the global fund management industry to any substantial extent, but there is an implicit warning here that the present high asset prices are not sustainable. The BIS is not predicting a stockmarket crash later this year, but if there is one, it would be able to say that such an outcome was consistent with what it wrote.

The most interesting part of the report is, as usual, the final few pages of commentary at the end. It starts by pointing out the dangers of fashion. It is fashionable at the moment to take a generally positive view of the future, despite the trauma of Asia. It suggests that there is a danger of over-optimism at the moment. Just as the Asian economies were admired for their high savings and high investment, no-one focused on the fact that a lot of this investment was going into unprofitable projects. With that warning, it looks at the potential weak spots in the world economy now.

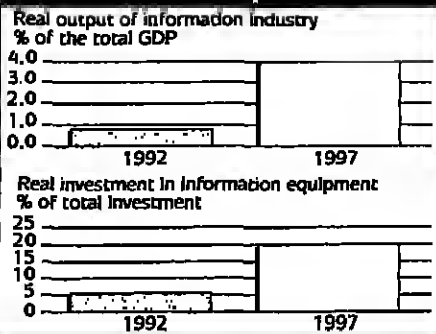
One is the imbalances among developed countries and, in particular, the rising current account deficit of the US. It sketches a scenario (not, it notes, a forecast) where US growth slows, confidence ebbs and foreign funds are suddenly withdrawn from the dollar.

Two, banking systems throughout East Asia and Japan need to be rebuilt. The weakest banks will have to be closed and the rest recapitalised.

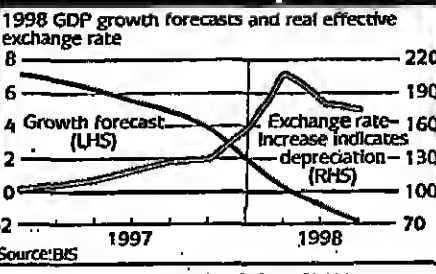
Third, there are imbalances within the rest of the developed world. The new European Central Bank will find it difficult to set a single interest rate for the entire region, given the different cyclical position of the large and small economies; and the US and UK will have to tackle tightening labour markets, worsening trade balances and rising inflation.

Finally, the BIS asks: can we learn to cope with crises better? It concludes that crises will undoubtedly continue – we cannot hope to prevent them – so we will just have to learn to manage them as well as possible, but "it is simply not prudent to assume that everything will turn out for the best".

American exceptionalism



-Asian despair



Singapore's financial sector will be opened up to competition

Singapore banks face shake-up

SINGAPORE'S DEPUTY prime minister has announced sweeping reforms to his country's banking system, in moves intended to increase transparency and liquidity and to foster competition in the sector.

Lee Hsien Loong, who also heads the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), told an Association of Banks in Singapore (ABS) dinner that bank disclosure requirements were to be raised to international standards.

He said Singapore's Committee of Banking Disclosure would soon publish recommendations on changes to banks' disclosure and provisioning practices.

Mr Lee said: "The Committee has recommended that local banks stop the current practice of maintaining

hidden reserves. It recommends they disclose the market value of their investments, which have largely been valued at book cost and hence contributed to their hidden reserves."

The deputy prime minister said the banking, securities and insurance markets would progressively be opened up to foreign competition over the next five years. "Competition is already lapping at our doorstep. It is better to embrace liberalisation at our own pace than face the prospect of one day being swept away by the floodwaters of competition."

He added that more competition would enhance Singapore's development as an international financial centre, and in turn should create more business for everyone.

UK fund managers switch to bonds

BY LEA PATTERSON

FEARS OF global economic slowdown have prompted heavy buying of bonds by UK fund managers, according to a survey published yesterday.

The latest Merrill Lynch/Gallup study also reveals that fund managers were as surprised as anyone in the City when the Bank of England raised interest rates last week. Seventy per cent of UK fund managers surveyed before last week's decision said they believed the next move in rates would be down.

Trevor Greetham, a global strategist at Merrill Lynch, said the bank's decision "caught everyone on the hop". Mr Greetham said he disagreed with the view that the rate rise could jeopardise the economy's chance of achieving a "soft landing" – that is, achieving a sustainable growth rate without going through painful recession.

Mr Greetham said: "The Bank of England raised rates as a pre-emptive measure against inflation. You are more likely to see a soft landing now. Hard landings only tend to occur when you already have inflation in the system."

The survey showed that UK fund managers had become "aggressive buyers" of overseas bonds, with buyers outnumbering sellers by 28 per cent, the second-highest rate since the survey began in 1990. Gifts were also popular with the money managers, with buyers outnumbering sellers by 21 per cent.

Managers typically favour bonds over stocks when there are concerns about world economic slowdown, Mr Greetham said. "Recent turmoil in the emerging markets could be a sign of a slowing global economy. Bonds should outperform stocks for the next few months."

Although UK fund managers have little interest in domestic equities, they are still bullish about Continental equities, with buyers outnumbering sellers by 16 per cent. Mr Greetham said: "An upturn in European domestic demand and post-EMU restructuring should boost European corporate earnings."

Bonds are also proving popular with American fund managers, according to Merrill Lynch/Gallup. There are growing concerns in the US about the impact of the Asian crisis on corporate earnings.

Bid for Lonhro Africa looks increasingly likely

BY TERRY MACALISTER

GEORGE SOROS-BACKED Blakeney Management yesterday confirmed its interest in Lonhro and Lonhro Africa, heightening speculation that a bid for the Lonhro Africa could soon emerge.

The sub-Saharan trading operation which demerged a month ago from Lonhro is a £127m company which on Thursday will report a steep fall in first-half profitability.

Blakeney, founded eight years ago, is said to be an active manager of Soros funds and has become interested in the potential of Africa.

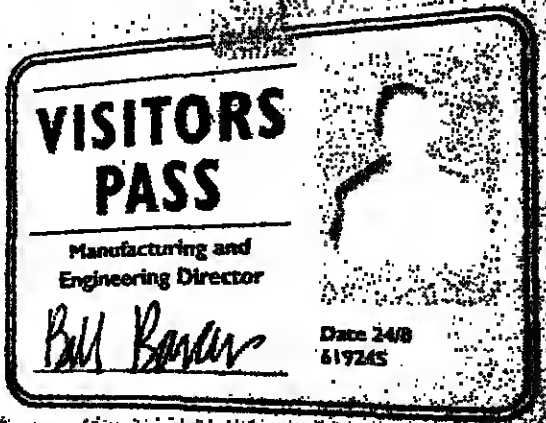
Blakeney last year took a 26 per cent stake in African Lakes, another African trading company in which Soros's Quantum Emerging Growth fund is said to have a holding.

In a statement to the stock exchange, Blakeney said: "We have looked at the publicly available documents relating to Lonhro and Lonhro Africa. We continue to assess Lonhro and Lonhro Africa's investment merits."

Lonhro Africa has an extensive portfolio, covering hotels, cotton, and motor distribution outlets in 14 countries. It owns 11 hotels and safari lodges in Kenya, Ghana and Mauritius.

Lonhro Africa was demerged from the parent group in a move to focus Lonhro on its mining activities.

The group had sales of £554m in the year to September and produced profits of £42.3m. Thursday's results could show that profits have fallen by half in the latest six-month period.



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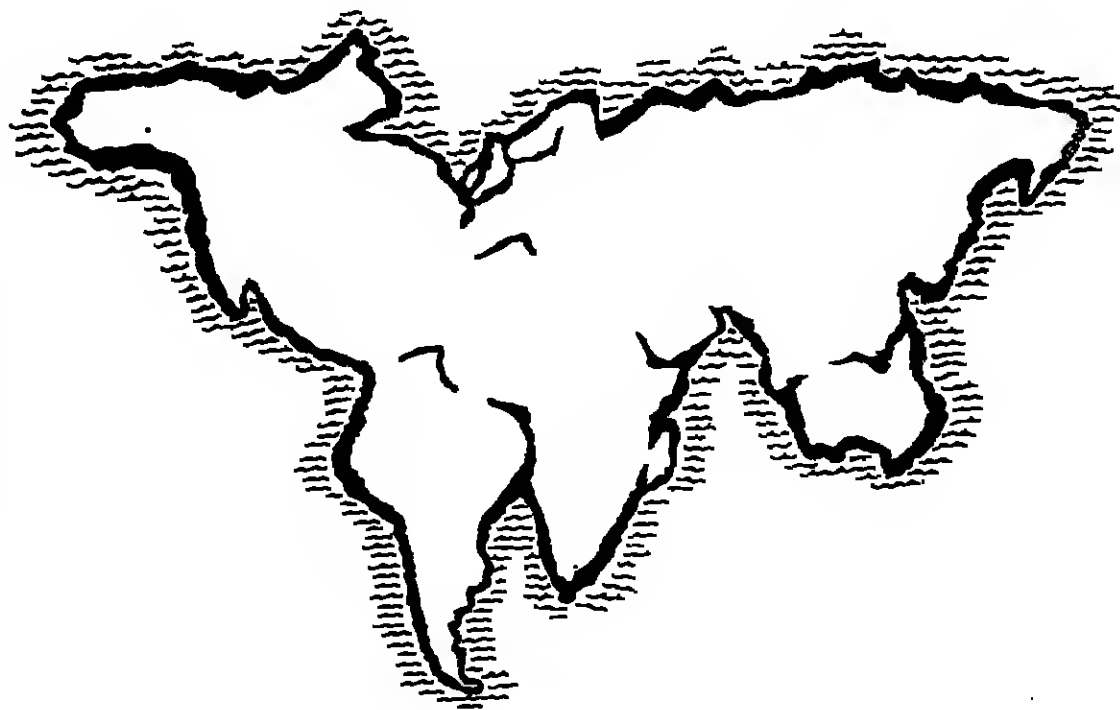
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	Dec 26	26/20	Oct 26	26/20	Nov 26	78/50	Dec 26	238/00	Sept 26	275/50
	Vol		Vol		Vol		Vol		Vol	
OTHER SOFTS AT 5:30PM										
Aug Live Cattle	(CME)	\$340.16		68.00	Jul White Meat	(SAF)	\$/100 mt		559.00	
Jul Port Beef	(CME)	\$40.16		62.00	Jul Rubber	(TCM)	\$/15 kg		97.00	
Jul Orange Juice	(JTN)	\$/15 lb		10.45	Jul Cotton	(CTN)	\$/50 lb		75.40	
Jul Milk	(CSQ)	\$/50 lb			Jul Grade Palm	(KLC)	\$/25 in		2333.00	
Jul Dates	(CBT)	\$/15 mt		125.50	Jul Soyas Oil	(CBT)	\$/50 lb		25.31	
Nov Flax	(WCE)	\$/20 mt		315.50	Jun Woolen Yarn	(TCM)	\$/500 kg		1255.00	

SPORT

Grand design
turns circuits
into sideshows

NOTHING more effectively highlighted the vexed problem of overtaking than the games of dodgem cars that enlivened the two attempts necessary to get Sunday's Canadian Grand Prix under way.

On the first effort five cars were involved in an accident as Alexander Wurz's Benetton rolled over Jean Alesi's Sauber; in the second, Jarno Trulli's Prost had a coming-together with Alesi's car.

"The problem is that too many young drivers get greedy," Alesi said. "When you make a good start there comes a point when you have to be satisfied with the progress you have made, otherwise you cannot get round the corner. There is no point to try and pass everyone, it just doesn't work."

Such is the difficulty in overtaking in F1 these days, however, that the start and the pitstops represent the best opportunities. The rest is often follow-my-leader. Ricardo Rosset has scarcely set the road alight this season, yet a driver of Johnny Herbert's calibre lacked the straightline speed to pass his Tyrrell and struggled for several laps before finally squeezing ahead.

Jacques Villeneuve, whose own effort to pass Giancarlo Fisichella ended with an embarrassing trip across the gravel bed and the incident that lost him his Williams' rear wing, said: "Part of the problem is the attitude in grand prix racing. When I arrived here the only thing that people could tell me was that overtaking was impossible, and that you shouldn't even bother to try. If you go into a race in that spirit, all you think of is when to make the next

David Tremayne considers why Sunday's events on the track in Montreal typified exactly what is wrong with Formula One

pit stop, to give yourself a chance of overtaking someone.

"Often you can even see another driver thinking about passing someone, then in the middle of it he thinks: 'Oh, I shouldn't be doing this'. It's as if it's in his mind not to do it, so he never tries it. If you end up banging wheels and crashing, the criticism that follows will outweigh the positive reaction that should come from your having tried to pass someone. It's almost as if it's better not to try."

Formula One is criticised for its lack of overtaking, particularly in comparison with the American ChampCar series in which pitstops play just as significant a role, yet the on-track action is often spectacular.

The FIA, the sport's governing body, is investigating how to improve the possibilities for overtaking in F1, and one suggestion has been to abandon the flat-bottomed cars used since 1983, and to revert to those with shaped ground-effect undersides similar to ChampCars.

A higher minimum weight and reversion to steel, rather than carbon, brakes have also been mooted. The reigning ChampCar champion, Alex Zanardi, a former F1 driver, said: "There is more that you can do with the car and it does not suffer so much from the aerodynamic turbulence that prevents other drivers following you closely enough to try overtaking."

On the oval tracks that comprise a significant part of the FedEx

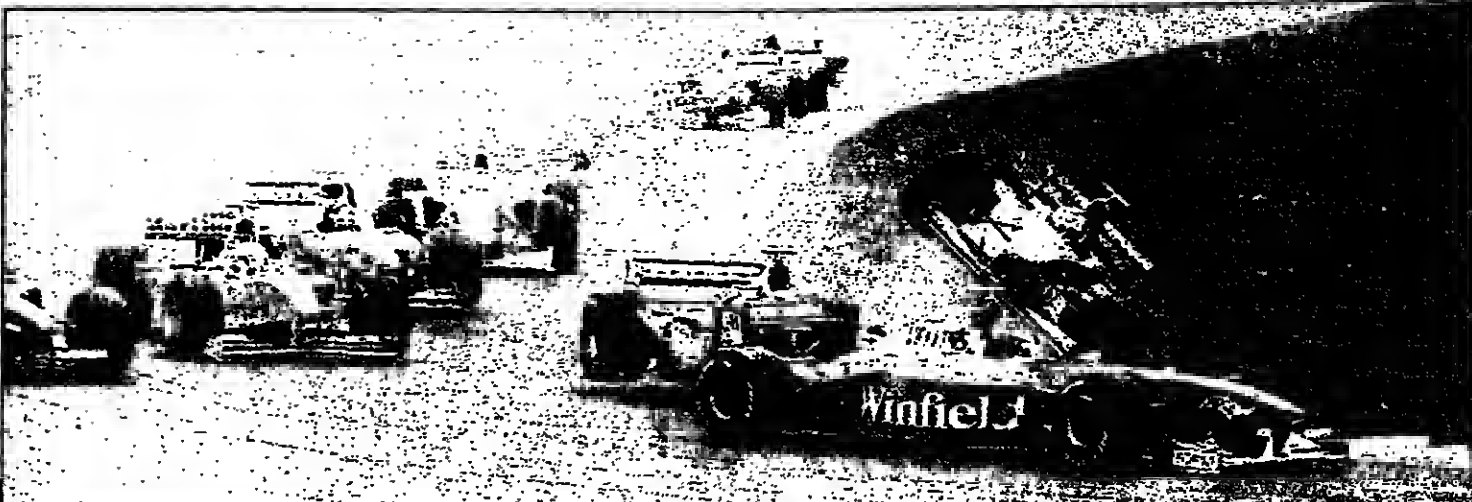
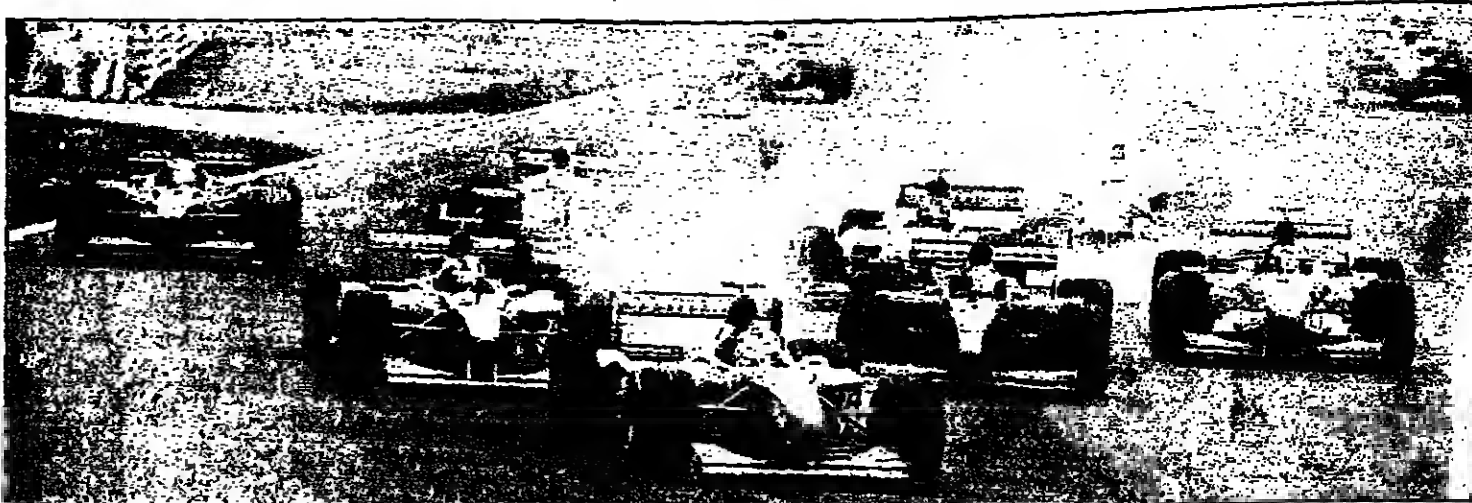
ChampCar series, the cars regularly run inches apart at more than 200mph, whereas F1 cars lose a sizeable amount of downforce the moment they get too close to one another. Patrick Head, the technical director of Williams, reports that their telemetry indicates an appreciable reduction in downforce when one car gets within 50 metres of another.

"There are two issues here," Ron Dennis, the McLaren chief, suggests. "Close racing and overtaking. If you want close racing you must have stable regulations which remain unchanged for long periods."

Villeneuve said: "As long as we remain so dependent on downforce, the more difficult it is going to be to follow people around corners. The cars are now so aerodynamically efficient, even on the straight, that you cannot slipstream any more."

The underlying problem is that the designers are too clever. Historically, any attempt to limit downforce, since the late Colin Chapman taught his rivals how to harness it effectively in the Seventies, has always been circumvented by the ingenuity of the designers.

The answer is thus far more complex than it might first seem. Until a satisfactory compromise is reached, races will tend to be processionary, or else irresistible forces will continue to meet immovable forces to the detriment of the world's most highly developed race cars.



The charge into the first corner of the Gilles Villeneuve circuit saw Alexander Wurz (far right, top picture) forced wide as the rest of the pack close up after swerving to avoid Mika Hakkinen's McLaren. Wurz then made an excursion across the grass (middle), re-entering the track vertically between Jean Alesi and Heinz-Harald Frentzen (bottom). Credit: Empics/Allsport

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Hingis and mother: perfect partners

Cedric Pioline, last year's losing Wimbledon finalist, has withdrawn from the Stella Artois event at Queen's Club in London with a stomach infection as play was curtailed yesterday by the wettest day in the tournament's history.

Credit: Blick Sport

At this point, Melanie chided Mario Widmer, her companion and interpreter. "OK," Mario said. "Melanie is angry because I was not translating everything. She said she never met somebody like me, so maybe that's why she never felt she made a sacrifice."

"Mum always wants to be perfect. I am sometimes the laid back type, not always on time. Whenever I have a little problem, and especially when I get to the semis or finals, she kind of takes it a little bit easier, because I get a little bit tired at the end. And she's always the person who pushes me into doing some work on my-

Competition from her peers helps to galvanise Hingis. Her chief rivals among the rising generation, the Williams sisters, Venus and Serena, the Russian Anna Kournikova, and the Croat Mirjana Lucic, endeavour to outshine each other in every way. As Hingis emphasised, "If you have a look at Anna, or Venus, or Mirjana, they are all different and they are all very feminine. They all want to look pretty on the court as well as being good players."

Melanie divorced her second husband, Andreas Zogg, a Swiss computer salesman, almost two years ago [Martina's father, Karol Hingis, 46, still lives in Slovakia]. Mother and daughter have Swiss homes in Trub-

"I started playing those tournaments more and more, and when I was six or seven I started beating

Was mother a good player? "Well, she was in the top 20 in the Czech Republic, so she was pretty good. She had a great life with tennis, until I was born." She smiled. "She was

At this point, Melanie chided Mario Widmer, her companion and interpreter. "OK," Mario said. "Melanie is angry because I was not translating everything. She said she never met somebody like me, so maybe that's why she never felt she made a sacrifice."

TENNIS

Cedric Pioline, last year's losing Wimbledon finalist, has withdrawn from the Stella Artois event at Queen's Club in London with a stomach infection as play was curtailed yesterday by the wettest day in the tournament's history.

RUGBY UNION

As if they had not suffered enough, the tourists also encountered wall to wall television

"I'd say we have more strength in depth on the wing than anywhere else; we might pick any two of six Test-quality performers and not suffer a fall-off," said John Hart, the All Black coach, who emphasised

Hart would have no truck with the mocking tone prevalent across the Tasman Sea where the motor-mouth branch of the Australian Rugby Union was still operating at full decibel level yesterday. "There's a challenge out there for the All Blacks: can they crack the ton?" said John O'Neill, the ARU chief executive, who added that the Wallabies might go elsewhere for their centenary opposition next summer.

And what problems. Should it be Wilson and Lomax on the wings, or Wilson and Osborne perhaps? Just at the moment, Woodward would happily swap any of his migraine-sized headaches for 10 of those currently afflicting his All Black counterpart. One coach's quandary can sometimes be another coach's idea of heaven.

Chris Maume

England's Five Nations captain Lawrence Dallaglio is limiting his rugby to 35 matches next season and challenges other injured players to follow his example in the wake of the record 76-0 defeat in Australia.

Effectively, this means Dalglish missing selected League games from a total commitment of 26 Premiership fixtures, eight internationals and up to five cup ties.

The Irish trainer Warren Gatland said a better performance can be expected from his players against the firm provincial side in South Africa.

Scotland face a strong Australian Barbarians side at Penrith today in the final game for the tourists before they play their opening Test against Australia in Sydney on Saturday.

As such the game will offer

IRELAND for *Originalists* (West, today): C Clarke; R Wallace; K Keane; R Henderson; J Bishop; O Humphreys; O Hearty; D Cohegan; B Jackson; P Cohegan; M Galwey; G Fuchs; T Brennan; O Wallace; A Foley. (cont.)
REPLACEMENTS: C O'Shea; B O'Meara; M McCull; J Hayes; K Wood; V Costello; G O'Donnoghlin.

SCOTLAND for *Americanist Bar* (West, today): D Lee; H Gilmore; J Meyer; J Jardine; A Bullock; D Hodges; G Burns; G McWilliam; S Brookerstone; M Stewart; S Campbell; R Metcalfe; A Rodburgh; S Reid (cont.); S Holmes.
REPLACEMENTS: O Officer; C Jones; I Fairley; C Mather; S Grimes; P Wright; R McKenzie.

VERDICT Krista would appear to have bright prospects but it remains to be seen if she will settle. **Owner:** Thomas, lost ground at the start on her debut and

IT is not just their wonderful mastery of a football, the goals that are so sweet on the eye or the compelling beat of the Samba that draws me to Brazil as the likely World Cup winners. Watch them closely against Scotland tomorrow and take note how hard they work to win the ball back.

Over the years so many Brazilian sides have set high standards in terms of flair and technique that it is an aspect of their game that has been overlooked. No other nation puts so much effort into regaining possession, they are physically strong and they don't lack aggression either.

That so many of the team now play club football in Europe only enhances their chances of retaining the crown in five week's time. They



RAY
WILKINS

have become even more attuned to what is required to beat the European sides and they are brimming over with players of the highest quality.

Ronaldo has done better than I

anticipated in Serie A. He only needs a split second to score and if I had to name a star of the tournament in advance he would be the man. But Brazil have so many other shining lights: Roberto Carlos and his explosive free-kicks on the left, Aldair at the back and Taffarel, who is a solid, experienced goalkeeper, a position where you might expect the Brazilians to be weak. Then there's Denilson, a wonderful ball player who operates in an old-fashioned inside left position.

You cannot ignore Germany, who are an extremely experienced group and are tournament-honed. Take no notice of talk that they are over the hill - if you look around the top European club sides there are many players over the age of 30, all at the top of their professions, all physically

fit. Argentina are a lovely mixture of young and old and, like Brazil, a lot of their players are now based in Europe.

They also possess a consistent goalscorer in Gabriel Batistuta. In fact all the leading sides have someone who can finish off chances and that is one reason why I am downgrading Spain's prospects. I know they put four past Northern Ireland the other night, but scoring goals was their big failing at Euro 96 and I fear the same problem might befall them this time round.

You would have to rate the Netherlands' chances highly if they prove a cohesive unit. For worthy outsiders I would pick out Yugoslavia and Croatia although there are question marks about both regarding temperament.

If England can get off to a flyer we will be difficult to beat because we are so well-organised defensively. To go through the qualification without conceding a goal in the away games was a remarkable feat and that, allied to our bulldog spirit, should stand us in good stead. If we can reach the semi-finals it would be a wonderful World Cup for us because along the way it will have meant we have faced, and beaten, some very good sides.

I don't think it really matters in which order the games come. In Spain in 1962 we were nervous of facing the French in our first match but Bryan Robson grabbed that goal almost from the kick-off. It proved the springboard to carry England forward.

Against Tunisia it is important we

impose our character on them from the start. They will feel they have a chance but they will also feel inferior and if we get hold of the game and demoralise them they should not be able to hold England.

It slightly surprises me that Glenn Hoddle has not shown his full-strength side in the warm-up games, but I believe he was trying to give every chance to those players over whom there remained a doubt.

I would expect him to start with David Beckham and Graeme Le Saux in the wing-back positions. There is an argument for using Beckham more centrally, but unless some decent crosses are put over for Alan Shearer one of England's strengths will be nullified.

It would not surprise me to see Paul Scholes fill the vacancy creat-

ed by Paul Gascoigne's omission although Steve McManaman and Paul Merson also possess the quality to play there. I'm a great admirer of Scholes - he's a thinking footballer and at this level it becomes a game of chess with your opponent. You have to out-suss your opposite number and Scholes is very good at doing that.

Michael Owen will have a major role to play in the squad, but Hoddle will start with Shearer and Teddy Sheringham as his first-choice strikers. In the middle of defence it is any three from four: Tony Adams and Gareth Southgate are assured of their places, and with the World Cup about playing balls into strikers' feet that should help Gary Neville win the vote for the third spot ahead of Sol Campbell.

MARK BOSNICH has to smile when he hears a Premiership crowd singing: "It's just like watching Brazil." Having played one of the games of his life against them and still let in six goals, he is painfully qualified to warn Scotland and all who have designs on the world champions' crown: Ronaldo in full cry is like nothing you have ever seen.

Aston Villa's coveted goalkeeper played for Australia against Brazil twice at the Confederations Cup in Saudi Arabia last December. The first time, when Ronaldo was partnered by Bebeto, he was relatively untroubled as Terry Venables' Socceros gained a 0-0 draw.

Eight days later, with Romario alongside Ronaldo, the Brazilians turned on a ruthless, relentless exhibition of firepower to demolish Australia 6-0 in the final. Both front men collected a hat-trick, leaving Bosnich fearful for Scotland's Jim Leighton in the Stade de France tomorrow.

"I know a lot of the Scottish players, as well as Alan Hodgkinson, who coached Jim and myself when we were at Old Trafford," he says. "I've also got a lot of time for Craig Brown and the way he's made them strong defensively. But being brutally honest, I can't see them stopping Brazil."

"If we can hold them, then in theory Scotland can too because they're a better team than us. But they'll have to play out of their skins because we're talking about the best of the best, with five or six world-class talents, plus arguably the best player on the planet in Ronaldo."

In the goalless game, explains Bosnich, Venables countered Mario Zagallo's customary 4-4-2 with the 3-5-2 formation favoured by Brown. The wing-backs were instructed to ensure that if one went forward, the other held back. Australia defended deep and in numbers, smothering attacks rather than allowing the ball to be played into space behind them.

"We contained them quite comfortably. It seemed hilarious to see them pumping hopeful balls into the

Aston Villa's Mark Bosnich has a warning for Scotland after experiencing Zagallo's formidable side in full flow. By Phil Shaw

box with 10 minutes to go, and to hear them getting irate every time I took my time over a goal-kick. Afterwards they didn't shake hands or swap jerseys because they felt we'd been a bit awkward, which we are."

When they reconvened in Riyadh four days before Christmas, Bosnich paid for his cheek. "Boy, did they get their own back," he recalls. "They gave us a hell of a lesson, as if to show they could do it when it mattered. I know they've had a couple of bad results in friendlies but in a competitive situation, it's a different matter. For the first 20 minutes I've never been so tired in a match."

Australia's cause was not helped by having a player sent off at 1-0, but what impressed Bosnich was the way Brazil kept up the siege. "At 3-0 their bench were signalling and shouting for them to take it easy, but they were going, 'No'. They wanted to rub our noses in it and score 10 if possible."

"I remember Ronaldo being clean through in the last minute and I thought: 'Oh no, seven'. The only time I'd let in six before was in the Olympic semi-final against Poland. Mercifully, he hit it against my legs."

The irony is that Bosnich rates that display as among his best, better, for instance, than his acclaimed defiance for Villa at Atletico Madrid in the Uefa Cup last March. It is just he encountered finishing for which even European competition is no preparation.

"Whereas Romario was more clinical, Ronaldo was the better all-round player. There's no greater or more awesome sight than him running at you with the ball, believe me. His upper body build reminds me of Dwight (Yorkie) and he's got the same low centre of gravity. What's frightening is that he's so young and will get even better."

THE Brazilian coach, Mario Zagallo, conceded yesterday that his team's defence had "holes in coverage", but added that he thought it unlikely that any opponent will threaten it. "No team will make the mistake of playing offensively with us," he said. "I'm sure that all will play on the counterattack."

Ronaldo, one of Zagallo's main assets, was no less confident. "I want

to win the World Cup and I believe in this team," said the striker.

"In Brazil it is victory or exile - there is nothing in between. We are all united in our aim to win here and the atmosphere in the group is excellent," he added.

"We can achieve our ambition of becoming the second South American side to win in Europe (following Brazil in Sweden in 1958)."

In the absence of Romario, who Bosnich describes as "an iced assassin", Brazil are likely to choose between Bebeto and Edmundo as Ronaldo's foil. Bosnich faced Bebeto when he played for the Spanish club Deportivo La Coruña. He found him dangerous, though less so than Romario. The attacks, he suspects, will be just as mesmerising.

"One of the front two goes short, the other comes in behind, and vice versa. Wherever they're going, the ball usually goes in the opposite direction. That's part of the plan. If they start running away from goal, nine times out of 10 the ball will be going back over the defenders' heads. If you come too close to them they'll get past you with their pace off the mark. And if you stand off them they'll take the ball to feet, turn and run at you."

While Juninho's recovery from injury came too late for him to make the finals, Bosnich still expects the holders to carry more destructive capacity than Scotland may be able to handle. "Denilson, wide on the left, is unbelievable. He's got a couple of incredible tricks. My mate Kevin Muscat, from Wolves, said he had two 'step-overs', which he does so fast they're like a blur. You're trying to work it out and he's gone."

"Dunga was man of the match in the final. He sat right in front of the centre-backs and his distribution was staggering. He was picking out attackers with 50-yard passes and they didn't have to adjust their feet. Then there's Roberto Carlos with his swerving free-kicks."

Bosnich, like Venables, was also struck by a camaraderie which belies speculation about Brazil being a divided squad. "They're obviously mates as well as team-mates. In a funny way, all turning up for the final with shaved heads showed their togetherness." Pressed as to whether he expects them to be back at St Denis for another final, he replies: "They've got to be favourites, but it's hard for South American teams to win the World Cup in Europe."

The final advice from one who has been at the eye of a Brazilian storm: "Don't commit yourself," Bosnich urges Scotland. "They don't like it when you wait and wait. They love you to make the first move. As soon as you do, they're off."



Ronaldo in flight: "There's no more awesome sight" says Bosnich

Photograph: Allsport

By KEN GAUNT

GORDON DURIE yesterday confirmed that Scotland's main defensive tactic against Brazil will be to attack. "We have to attack Brazil in much the same way as they will try and do," he said yesterday.

"If we sit in and try and defend, then they have the players who can destroy you. We have to create chances and pose them problems in the process."

Durie and goalkeeper Jim Leighton are the only two survivors from the Italia 90 World Cup squad, and manager Craig Brown believes their experience will be vital against the holders at the Stade de France tomorrow.

Scotland lost 1-0 to Brazil eight years ago, with Aberdeen goalkeeper Leighton in goal. Durie, who was on the bench that day, is anxious to set the record straight and help the team to a famous victory.

"Hopefully I will get the nod, and it will be up to Kevin Gallacher and myself not only to get the goals but also put the Brazil defenders under pressure. We were a bit unfortunate to lose to them in 1990 and we are well prepared this time around."

"It is always a great experience playing the world champions, but facing them in the World Cup is a bit special. To be honest the players haven't really spoken about Brazil that much, although that will probably change from tomorrow onwards."

Scotland have been written off against Brazil by many people, and the players are anxious to prove the doubters wrong.

Brown said: "The squad are hurting a bit about what is being said about them. They have a great chance to display their character in this game as well as their technical ability."

"Take it from me, we are not a million miles away from Brazil. Our players are experienced, and if you look at our squad we have a team of winners. They are used to pressure games and big crowds. My team will not be unnerved by Brazil."

"The players aim to seize the chance with both hands and show they can play at the top level."

Brazil coach Mario Zagallo has been accused of bluffing after saying he did not know anything about the Scots.

"I am taking his remarks with a pinch of salt," said Brown. "It is just a smokescreen. He clearly knows everything about Scotland as you would expect from the manager of the world champions."

"I know how tough this game will be, because I am convinced Brazil will be the outstanding team of the tournament. This team compares favourably with the 1994 winning side - they have so many good players to choose from."

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The referees: England's representative in France tells Clive White how he will have to change his conciliatory approach

Durkin is ready to toe Fifa's tough line

WHEN Paul Durkin talks only half-jokingly of how England's success could jeopardise his chances of refereeing the World Cup final, he is under a slight misapprehension.

It is not so much his native country who stand in his way of realising his lifelong dream as the favourites Brazil, or to be more specific, a certain old Brazilian and an alleged feud which dates back to a game between Brazil and Sweden in the 1978 finals.

The score in the first round group game stood at 1-1 when, with the last kick of the match, Zico turned a corner for Brazil into the net just as Clive "The Book" Thomas, the Portcawl referee, blew for full time. To the amazement of the Brazilians, not least among them the then Fifa president Charles Joao Havelange, the fastidious Welshman disallowed the "goal".

As a consequence of that draw Brazil ended up in the group they most wanted to avoid, that of the hosts Argentina, and narrowly failed to make the final. Whereupon Havelange is alleged to have vowed that no Englishman would ever referee Brazil again in a World Cup game as long as he was president - overlooking the fact that Thomas was Welsh as the Rhondda - since when, in 25 World Cup ties involving Brazil, no Englishman ever has. With Havelange's tenure ending yesterday, it remains to be seen whether things will change.

The youngest ever to officiate at a World Cup final - he ran the line in the FA Trophy at the age of 24 - Durkin, now 42, came to the fore during Euro 96 when his friend, Dermot Gallagher, pulled up with a calf injury 25 minutes into the France-Bulgaria game, at St James' Park. Players are notorious for trying it on with substitute referees, but Durkin

quickly stamped his authority and earned a high mark from the match observer.

With the injuries suffered by Gallagher keeping him out for a year, Durkin has emerged as England's No 1, coming with "a late run up the rails" to overtake the referee whom many assumed would be going to France, Graham Poll. In the season just ended Durkin refereed the FA Cup final, in which, thankfully, he was virtually invisible, as well as two European Cup semi-finals, which is almost unprecedented. But the match that may have clinched it for him, he believes, was a Champions League tie last year between Rosenborg and Real Madrid, played in near treacherous conditions in Norway. Durkin scored nine and a half out of 10 from the Swedish observer, who also happened to be on Fifa's referees' committee.

All of which makes this refereeing game sound rather competitive these days, and Durkin is unable to resist the temptation to talk about it in player-speak. "My main aim in France is to referee the one game I definitely get, to the best of my ability, which I am quite confident of doing. After that, it's a case of taking one game at a time," he said, suddenly realising what he had said. "And if I get another one I'll be over the moon. If not, I'll be sick as a parrot."

Some referees nowadays, perhaps due to these high-profile games, cannot resist playing to the gallery and Durkin, to his credit, recognised such a failing in his own demeanour earlier in the season and rectified it. The Fifa style of refereeing is very much "in your face" and Durkin admitted that he fell into the trap of doing it all the time. "I was perceived as this bit of officious little sod which I'm far from being," he



Mickey Mouse (centre) welcomes World Cup referees, including Paul Durkin (top centre), to Disneyland Paris yesterday Photograph: Shaun Botterill/Allsport

said. "I think what brought it home to me was the Petit incident in October [when the Arsenal player shoved Durkin and was sent off]. He shouldn't have put his hand on me but looking back I could have done certain things to prevent the incident happening."

Durkin's willingness to downgrade a red card which he had given Manchester United's Gary Pallister to yellow on video evidence was further example of his new style conciliatory tone. Similarly, he was more than happy to answer Glenn Hoddle's request to come

down from his home in Dorchester, where he works as a fleet administrator for a housing association, to spend a week at Bisham taking the players through the new Fifa edicts, notably the tackle from behind.

But Durkin knows he is going to have to be tough in France if he is to travel far in this competition. Fifa, obligingly, have warned the 34 referees that any who do not toe the line will be on the first plane home. "I know it sounds horrible, but if there's any doubt about whether it's a yellow or a red, I'll hit them," said the officious little so-and-so.

Durkin, in fact, is nothing of the sort, although he takes a hard line on dissent. That, he has discovered, is the major difference between continental games and Premiership ones. "Abroad I have the total respect of the players," he said. "I think English referees are highly thought of. But it's always the way, you're never appreciated as much in your own country. I don't know whether it's because we're not paid enough or what, but they tend to look down their nose at you in this country."

Having grown up in a footballing

family - his father was a professional - and played the game at junior level as a winger, he can empathise with the problems of players better than many referees. "I know what it's like to be kicked up in the air as well as kick someone else up in the air," he said.

He once booked his own brother during his first season as a teenage referee. "He took this player out with a thigh-high challenge," he said. "I just called him over and asked him his name. He said: 'You know my name'. So I asked him again even though I'd already written it down

and warned him he'd be off next time. But he got home before me and told mum, so when I got home I got a bollocking. But it did make me realise that I might be out for this game, I knew I could be impartial."

As a player himself he was also once suspended. He remembers it with great clarity and not a little shame. "I was fined £4 and suspended for 14 days. It was for three bookings, one for a physical challenge," he said. And the other two? "Offering improper advice to the referee," he replied sheepishly.

Ellis a knockout during the Battle of Berne

Guy Hodgson on a referee who stamped his authority as Brazil and Hungary went to war in a 1954 World Cup quarter-final

ANYONE over 25 probably remembers Arthur Ellis. Straight man to Stuart Hall and Eddie Waring, he presided over *It's A Knockout* on television for 18 years, imposing rule on chaos.

Which is akin to recalling Wellington for his boots. They happened but were scarcely important compared to the Iron Duke's destruction of Napoleon's armies on the Iberian peninsula and at Waterloo. Ellis was one of football's great referees.

Now 88, it is not an exaggeration to say Ellis' cv is the sort few players can better. He refereed in three World Cups, including the 1950 final, officiated in the first European Cup final (Real Madrid 4 Reims 3), the 1952 FA Cup final and was in charge of more than 40 internationals.

You do not become part of moments like these unless you are a special kind of whistle blower, but one match set him apart. The Battle of Berne it was later named and it was one of the most unpleasant games in World Cup history. Ellis was a man caught in the middle of a war zone.

He refereed Brazil in the 1950

finals when they beat Sweden 7-1 and also officiated in the Olympic final two years later when Hungary's Mighty Magyars won the gold medal. When he learned he would be in charge of their World Cup quarter-final of 1954 he was thrilled at the prospect.

"I thought it was going to be the greatest game I'd ever see," he said at his Brighouse home. "I was on top of the world." It was a wholly deluded anticipation. "Whether politics and religion had something to do with it I don't know, but they behaved like animals. It was a disgrace."

Football was forgotten as vendettas were carried on. Nilton Santos and Josef Bozsik, a member of Hungary's parliament, exchanged punches and were sent off, at one point Djakma Santos, spitting and gesticulating, was chasing Zoltan Csibor round the pitch behind the referee's back; with four minutes left Ellis dismissed another Brazilian, Humberto Tozzi, who fell to his knees pleading not to go.

The final whistle merely ended what discipline was left. Pinheiro



Arthur Ellis today and when he refereed Italy v Paraguay in 1950 Photograph (left): Barry Greenwood

was hit on the head by a bottle thrown from the Hungarian bench (allegedly by the injured Ferenc Puskas) and the fighting continued off the pitch when the Brazilians invaded their opponents' dressing-room.

"It was a horrible match," Ellis continued. "In today's climate so many players would have been sent off the game would have been abandoned. My only thought was that I was determined to finish it." Did he know about the fight in the dressing-room? "I knew something was going on but I wasn't going to get involved. Amazingly, football's governing body did nothing, leaving discipline to the respective countries. 'Fifa turned a blind eye. Too many committee members were afraid of losing trips to nice places.' The retribution



never came. "They were the only players I ever sent off who were never punished," Ellis said. If that match left a bad taste, then Ellis' first World Cup in Brazil four years earlier was one of wonder. He was linesman in the opening fixture, refereed two others and also ran the line in what, in a tournament run on a league basis, was effectively the final, between the home country and

Uruguay. The images are still strong.

In the first game, Brazil's opening goal against Mexico prompted a pitch invasion, not from spectators but from reporters and radio commentators trying to get quotes. In the last, a world record 204,000 spectators packed into the massive new Maracana in the expectation of a Brazilian victory.

Instead Uruguay won 2-1. "That crowd will never be beaten, they wouldn't allow it today. I remember Juan Schiaffino scoring for Uruguay. He missed it but it went in at the near post and the reaction was amazing. The biggest crowd in football history and you could have heard a pin drop."

As for England's notorious defeat by the United States in the same tournament, Ellis' reaction was the same as everybody else's, one of disbelief. "I was refereeing Italy versus Paraguay in São Paulo that day and it was the first time I'd seen an electronic scoreboard because at that time they used to chalk scores on a blackboard and walk it round the field. We thought that England had won 10-1 and they couldn't put double figures on the scoreboard."

Forced to retire in 1962 at the age of 47, the timing coincided with BBC exploring pantomime for prizes and *It's A Knockout* was

born, something he still participates in on company days thanks to Stuart Hall's buying of the props and costumes. It is the only refereeing he does these days and for that he is grateful.

"Everything is regimented," said Ellis, who selects Uriah Rennie and Peter Jones as the best of the current officials. "A referee can't use his ability, he's told what to do and has to do it. In my time you stamped your personality on a game. I wouldn't get away now with the things I used to do."

Like the time he calmed down a raging Bob Paisley. "I remember him threatening to part an opponent's hair if he beat him once more," he said, laughing deep and loud. "I offered him a comb."

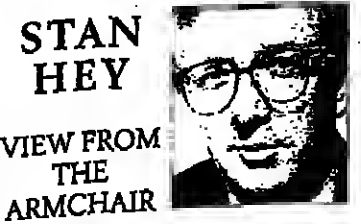
It is not just the fact that he saw Paisley, the greatest of English club managers, as a player that places Ellis in a different age, it is the humour. Can you imagine a modern referee defusing a potentially explosive situation with a joke? The only thing today's officials are armed with is an unsavoury demeanour and a pocketful of yellow and red cards.

You wonder whether today's automated approach could handle games like the Battle of Berne. France 98 prays there will be no repetition but if there is you hope the referee will be as brave.

A place for Gazza in pundits' first eleven?

REPEAT after me: je suis une pomme de terre du canapé. But most of all, say it proudly because, and I'm translating here, "we of the potatoes of the sofa" will be the real heroes of France 98. Ticketless we may be, but the hundreds of hours we are about to devote to the televised coverage of the biggest tournament in football history will be seen as the most noble of sacrifices as we forsake relationships, work, personal hygiene and healthy diets in favour of 33 days of wide-eyed sloth and food-stained clothing. So why haven't either the BBC or ITV signed up our patron saint, Gazza of Schab-U-Like?

The 32 World Cup managers were allowed the luxury of a 2 June deadline for announcing their squads, but unfortunately our two national



VIEW FROM THE ARMCHAIR

broadcasters covering the tournament had to finalise their line-ups months ago for publicity purposes. Somebody coming with a late run of form was always going to struggle to get in, and not many television folk could have expected Gascoigne's sudden availability for work. Unless there is a last-minute secret deal in the offing, resulting in a great coup de théâtre in which a masked figure

swings on a rope through the window of a World Cup studio and reveals himself, we are left with the conundrum of why England's most celebrated footballer of the 1990s is too much of an embarrassment to be taken up as a television pundit.

Some of the answers are too obvious to mention. The real reason is that Gascoigne belongs to an out-moded culture both on and off the field and would have had to undergo the same sort of intense, New Labour makeover that ITV's Barry Venison has endured in order to become presentable to a television audience. Short of changing his name to Jacques Derrida, Venison couldn't have upgraded himself more after giving up his bleach-blond locks and carpet tile jackets. But his reconstruction probably epitomises

what has happened to televised football now that the market researchers and focus groups have had their say.

It explains why ITV pinched Rudi Gutlit from the BBC to be its lead analyst and why the Beeb immediately retaliated by signing up David Ginola - it wasn't just a case of serving up the crumpled factor, but more that Gutlit and Ginola are articulate spokesmen for British football's stylish new internationalism. For years, our television panels have routinely rubbish foreign players in tournaments for such assorted crimes as diving, not being good in the air, not liking tackles, being too emotional and going off for stitches to head wounds.

But Ron Atkinson, ITV's most vivid "colour commentator", will

probably get a rocket in his earpiece from the producer if he continues to trawl the xenophobic joke books of his fellow scouser Stan Boardman. We are all Europeans now.

Indeed, I suspect that ITV will move heavily into BBC territory during this tournament, partly due to the mistakes learned from the disastrous studio set up at USA 94 - only President Kennedy died more horribly in Dallas than Matthew Lorenzo and Denis Law - but also because the man who masterminded the BBC's years of superiority, Brian Barwick, is running their show. Without trying to take the ITV audience too far up-market - they have signed retro-lads Skinner and Baddiel after all - Barwick has nevertheless gone for a front row of high-profile managerial experts to dispense their wisdom and

Alex Ferguson could be a real winner, provided he isn't paired with Kevin Keegan.

Cynics might point out that having ex-Chelsea manager Gullit and ex-Sheffield Wednesday manager Atkinson will make the studio more like a Job Centre than a football forum, but along with Bobby Robson and Terry Venables, both former England managers, with semi-final defeats to the Germans as emotional scars, they will present a formidable challenge if they can get the style right.

Style is unlikely to be a problem for the BBC, given that their anchorman Des Lynam has come to redefine the very word. You suspect that Des could probably do the entire tournament without speaking, simply raising an eyebrow or twirling his moustache instead. Only

two things worry me about the Beeb - first, that they are a bit top-heavy with players as their experts and, secondly, that Des himself has been giving hints of turning into a bit of a "media tart" with his thematically related adverts - underarm deodorant and garden fertiliser - and his appearance in a recent play.

Des has already promised that, in keeping with football's upward profile, he will be brushing up his French in preparation. But what if he gets stuck into the post in Paris and goes completely native, smooching at the camera and leaving a Gauloise dangling in the corner of his mouth? There is no obvious replacement for him. Unless of course? Could there yet be a role for the man who got stuck into the pasties?

England's leadership: The national coach's indecision makes a mockery of optimism possible a few months ago

Folly of Hoddle's muddled thinking

LAST autumn, when Manchester United demolished Juventus in the first leg of their Champions' League tie at Old Trafford, it seemed reasonable to believe not only that United could revisit the glory of their European past but that this brashly gifted young team could provide for England the foundation of a serious World Cup challenge.

Juventus were a classy side, experienced, with outstanding players - Del Piero, Zidane, Deschamps, Di Livio. Yet even with the distinct advantage of an early goal, Marcello Lippi's team could not live with United over the 90 minutes. Even a sceptic about the English game, impervious to Sky's Premiership hype, could not fail to be impressed.

It seemed to me that night that a turning point had been reached. For United, and England, United prevailed by virtue of a classic English compound of skill, aggression and willpower, commonly known as guts. And most of the heroes were English.

David Beckham, Nicky Butt, Gary Neville, Teddy Sheringham, Andy Cole, Paul Scholes: convinced of their own ability, arrogantly dismissive of their opponents in the end, the ideal blend of youth and experience. This, one imagined, was how the legendary Busby Babes had been at their glorious best. How fortunate for Glenn Hoddle that so many of them were English.

That thought recurred when United travelled to Stamford Bridge in January to play Chelsea in the FA Cup. Like Juventus, Chelsea possessed a galaxy of foreign stars: Zola, Di Matteo, Vialli, Leboeuf, Petrescu. Like Juventus, the foreigners were blown away by a startling exhibition of controlled aggression. After taking a 5-0 lead United took their foot off the pedal. Something definitive had, however, been established about the difference between the new English footballer and his mercenary European counterpart.

When on reflection on those two United performances, the English identity and character of the assassins (Phil Neville, playing in midfield, scored the opening goal at The Bridge) and considered that Glenn Hoddle could supplement to the cause players such as Alan Shearer, David Seaman, Tony Adams, Robbie Fowler, David Batty, Paul Ince and Ian Wright, it did not require a leap of the imagination to see England mounting a real challenge at this summer's festival of football in France.

Against the background outlined above, Paul Gascoigne is an irrelevance. Ageing, injury-prone, a seriously unfit curiosity, managing - just about - to get by in the Scottish Premier League. Gazza would hardly have lasted 20 minutes in either of the aforementioned two games. He was yesterday, Euro '96, and there, in truth, only briefly. Yet, astonishingly, Gazza the talisman has remained an English obsession. England's World Cup fate was dependent, in the eyes of many who should know better, on some metamorphosis that would transform the slob into a World Cup athlete.



EAMON DUNPHY

ingly, Gazza the talisman has remained an English obsession. England's World Cup fate was dependent, in the eyes of many who should know better, on some metamorphosis that would transform the slob into a World Cup athlete.

The England coach appears to have believed in the Gazza myth as enthusiastically as anybody. Without Gazza England would lack a creative dimension, it was claimed. Hoddle tacitly consented to this nonsense. And nonsense it is. When Manchester United thrashed Juventus, and even more severely Chelsea, was there any discernible absence of creativity? Answer that question correctly, and you begin to understand the folly of so much that passes for critical analysis of the English game; so much of which appears to permeate the thinking also, sadly, of Glenn Hoddle.

Flagellation is universally known as the English vice; in football-related matters this vice is taken to extremes. Understood and harnessed, the natural English virtues deployed by Manchester United against Juventus and Chelsea are priceless. Power, aggression, the wit of Beckham and Scholes allied to the relentless preying of Cole and Butt, Sheringham's elusive precision, the unshakeable composure of the Neville brothers - such qualities are, when blended, unique to the English.

Discovering its true identity and celebrating it is a task that has proved beyond English football men. Significantly, it was Sir Alf Ramsey who last accomplished the relatively simple task of casting the English footballer in his proper role. With apologies to none, especially his domestic critics, Ramsey won the World Cup.

Ramsey was a practical football man, to whom Alex Ferguson, the United manager, bears more than passing resemblance, who would have loved, and nurtured, the attitude of United's brash young men. Ramsey would have spotted what Hoddle appears to have missed: the virtue of Englishness...and the pointlessness of persisting with Gazza.

But then Ramsey was a man. Hoddle is merely a prefect: tolerant, reasonable, presentable, ruling



Perfect tense: 'Hoddle the coach recalls Hoddle the player: a man convinced of his own virtue but sadly vulnerable to robust reality'

Photograph: Allsport

nothing in - or out - not even the possibility that a faith healer can make a difference. Which is, basically, a load of bollocks.

Hoddle the player was an enigma. Hoddle the coach is similarly obtuse, never more so than in recent weeks when his indecision has made a mockery of the optimism about England's chances that was possible a few months ago.

Hoddle clearly believed in Gazza; in that he may not be alone. But

surely only he can believe that England can travel to France with one left-sided player, two full-backs, without Nicky Butt and Phil Neville, and hope to survive international football's ultimate test. Asked at the Gazza press conference who might cover at left-back should Graeme Le Saux be injured (or more likely suspended), Hoddle mumbled something about Darren Anderton filling in at left-wing back. That was truly sensational news. Phil Neville was

back in Manchester by then...and England's World Cup destiny clearly outlined.

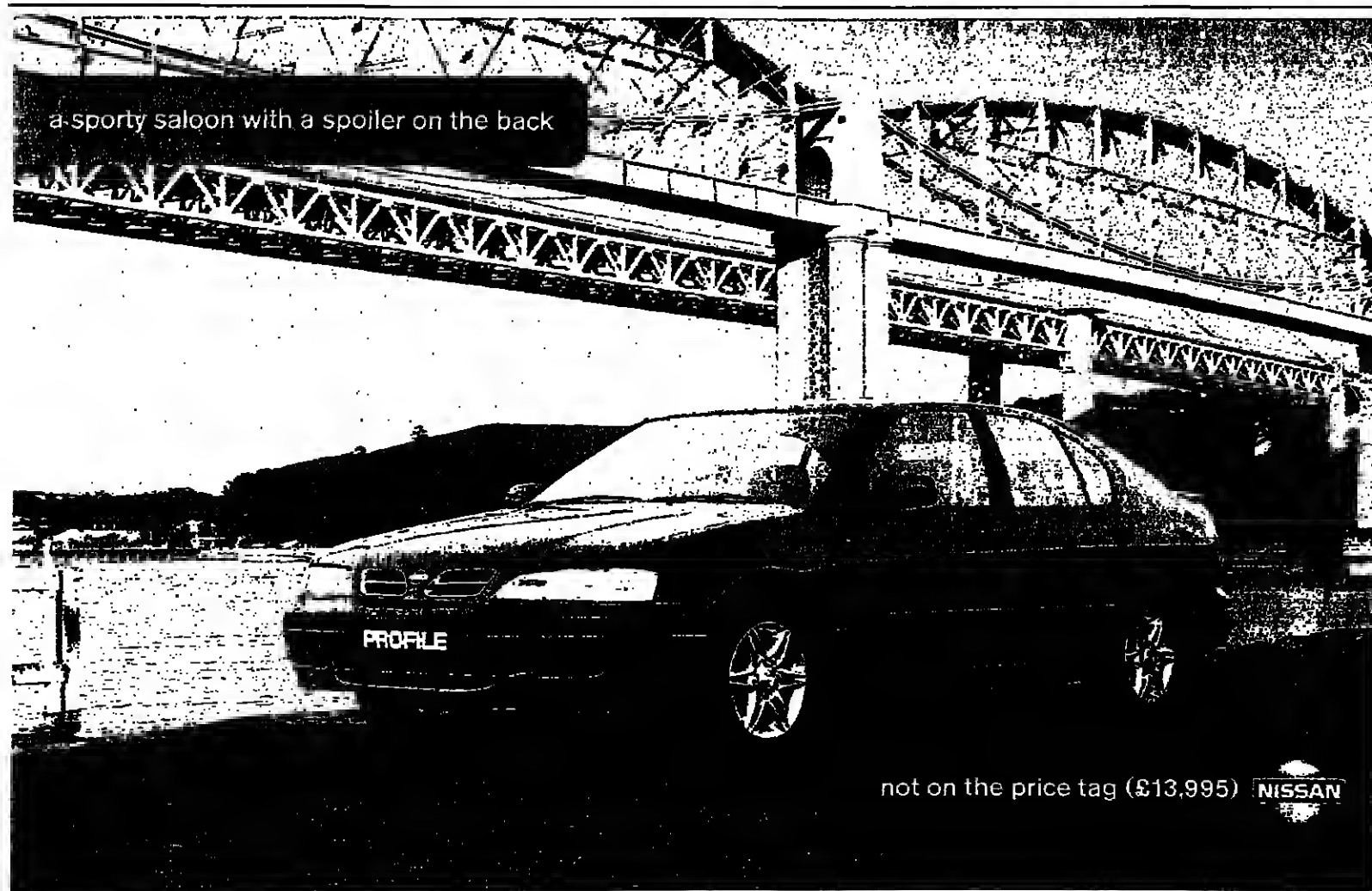
England have played two really serious matches since Hoddle took charge: Italy home and away in World Cup qualifiers. The loss at Wembley was redeemed by the draw in Rome, achieved, it must be said, against a nervously impotent Italian side. What awaits in France is a challenge of a different order. For Glenn Hoddle, the moment of truth has arrived.

It is his convictions, whatever they are, that are about to be put to the test. Defeat, especially if it is abject, will doubtless raise a tabloid storm directed mainly one suspects, at the players. Folly compounded by folly. For this buck should properly stop with Hoddle, The Tinkerer.

Banking after players he does not possess in order to execute a system - 3-5-2 - that is wrong for the men at his disposal. Preferring Anderton to Phil Neville or Nigel Win-

terburn, opting for shadow in place of substance.

So recently experimenting with Steve McManaman at right-wing back and, more hilariously, Jamie Redknapp as sweeper, Hoddle the coach reminds one of nothing so much as Hoddle the player: a man convinced of his own virtue but sadly vulnerable to robust reality. In France, as once at Anfield, there will be no protection for the prefect. In football, hard men rule.



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France alarmed by Zidane ankle injury

FRANCE returned from a four-day training session in Finland yesterday with doubts concerning the fitness of their playmaker Zinedine Zidane.

Since a tiring 1-0 win over Finland last Friday, Zidane has been struggling with an injured ankle. Although he is expected to return to training today the French team doctor, Jean-Marcel Ferrer, said: "It is preoccupying because there is always that fear that he will not be able to play the first match."

If Zidane does not recover his place against South Africa in Marseilles on Friday will most likely be taken by Robert Pires, the Metz midfielder.

Germany suffered injury and illness worries involving two players yesterday, less than 24 hours after arriving in France. The wing-back Christian Ziege was unable to train because of a fever along with the defensive midfielder Thomas Helmer, who has a thigh problem.

The Germans' opening match is six days away - they face the United States in Paris on 15 June - but the problems gave coach Berti Vogts a sobering reminder of his in-

jury-hit Euro 96 campaign when he struggled to field a team for the final and had to ask special permission to fly in another player.

With the average age of the German squad nearly 30 - one of the oldest in the finals - Vogts knows that veteran players can take longer to recover from injuries. Helmer is 33.

"It's a real shame for Helmer because he has been mentally in good form and feeling positive," Vogts said. "I hope he is going to get back soon. I hope he will be able to do some light training. On Ziege, we will leave it to the doctors to decide when he can return."

Italy, who open against Chile in Bordeaux on Thursday, deferred a decision on whether to send the defender Moreno Torricelli home after the team doctor said his injured right foot may heal quickly.

"He is suffering from a deep bone bruise which causes him severe pain," Dr Andrea Farretti said. "However, it should heal quickly and the player should resume training soon. The next two days will be decisive."

Meanwhile, the Juventus striker Filippo Inzaghi is pushing hard for a place in the first team but says he will happily play the role of "super-sub" if required.

A twisted left knee forced Michael Laudrup to miss training with Denmark yesterday. The Danish coach, Bo Johansson, already troubled by a knock suffered by the Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, played down the injury as the 33-year-old Ajax midfielder worked out gently with several coaching staff.

"He's not practising today but it shouldn't be a problem," Johansson said. Laudrup is the sole survivor of Denmark's only previous World Cup finals appearance in 1986.

Fernand Sastre, the man responsible for bringing the World Cup finals to France, has been admitted to a Paris hospital suffering from lung cancer. Sastre, the chairman of the French Football Federation from 1972 to 1984, is the co-president of the World Cup organising committee with Michel Platini.

هكذا من الأصل

Johansson blames FA in defeat

BY GLENN MOORE
in Paris

LENNART JOHANSSON, the most powerful man in European football, last night delivered a savage attack on the Football Association after he suffered a crushing defeat in the election for the presidency of Fifa, the world game's governing body.

Johansson, who appeared to be a certain winner a month ago, lost to Sepp Blatter, the Swiss general secretary of Fifa, in a tense election in a conference hall here.

The result is a boost for the FA's attempt to host the 2006 World Cup but it has come at the potentially heavy cost of alienating Johansson. The Swede remains president of Uefa, the European governing body, and a member of the 24-member Fifa

executive which will decide the venue for 2006.

Johansson, who is firmly behind the German campaign, lost by 111 votes to 80, a much larger verdict than had been expected. He felt the FA's decision, on Friday, to back Blatter publicly had been influential and specifically picked them out in a bitter post-election address.

"I am very surprised at the scale of the defeat," he said. "I expected to get 100 votes. I didn't guess at them. I had been told I would get them. It is difficult for me to understand why the FA of England were behind me a fortnight ago and now they are not. You can speculate why."

Before the election, Johansson had alluded to envelopes of money being passed around but it is not

thought he was suggesting England had been bribed financially - one of the world's richest football associations. England have no need of a bribe. The FA is, however, in need of influence and Blatter's election is seen as favourable to 2006. He has publicly backed South Africa's candidacy but if they fail to produce a viable bid, which seems increasingly likely, he is expected to prefer England to Germany.

"We feel he will ensure an open and fair process and see the best bid succeeds," said Jo Given of the 2006 campaign. Of the FA's change of mind she said: "We have said nothing in the last fortnight to suggest we would back him. About the time Blatter announced he was standing (April), Johansson, who we had expected to be neutral about 2006 if

elected, said he would support Germany's bid. In the light of a second candidate, and Johansson's decision, we said we would review our position. On Friday we decided that, while we did not doubt Johansson's ability to lead Europe, we felt Blatter was the best person for the whole world of football. He is dynamic and charismatic."

Not everybody would describe Blatter, a 62-year-old career administrator with a background in ice hockey and watch-making, as dynamic but he does have charisma, as he showed in making the World Cup draw last December.

Yesterday, after an attempt to make the ballot open was denied, his victory was never in doubt. Although he failed to secure the two-thirds majority required on the first ballot,

Johansson, shocked by his crumbling vote, capitulated before a second was taken.

Afterwards it was pure theatre. Blatter was given a massive spray of flowers and his mentor, the 82-year-old outgoing president João Havelange, was made an honorary life president. The Brazilian, in power for 24 years, wiped a tear from his eye and then, having seen the succession secured, paid a glowing tribute to Johansson as "a leader and a friend". Since the pair have been in acrimonious dispute for four years, this brought peals of mirth from the watching media.

Johansson initially kept his cool, but then he was faced with the ordeal of a press conference. Suddenly he looked every one of his 68 years. He had spent more than three years

and an estimated £500,000 on his campaign and it had ended in humiliation.

Asked if he would stand again he replied: "No, I am too old. Never again." As his composure went he attacked the FA, adding: "I was the one who, almost alone, had sympathy for them after H'eyssal. I was the one who proposed they should host Euro 96. I had excellent relations with Sir Bert Millicip (the former FA chairman). I am surprised."

Then Blatter appeared and Johansson was asked to wait and shake hands for the photographers. Graciously he agreed but, as Blatter's entrance became triumphal, he muttered into the microphone, "Mr Sepp Blatter, I'm hungry."

Then, the pictures taken, this bear of a man left the stage and Blat-



Johansson: Shocked by poll

ter, half a foot shorter but far more dapper, took the limelight. The showman's instinct took over as he reached out for the World Cup trophy itself, which had been sitting nearby, and put it next to him. The first winner - and whatever happens in the next five weeks, few victories will be as complete or as far-reaching - was his.

Dons' Dublin move blocked

BY GLENN MOORE

SAM HAMMAN'S threat to move Wimbledon to Dublin was neutered yesterday when Fifa, the world's governing body, barred clubs from playing in leagues outside their own country unless both national football associations were in favour. The ruling was prompted by the FA of Ireland's opposition to the proposed moves by both Wimbledon and Clydebank to the Irish capital. Hamman, who has been in dispute with Merton Council over the club's long-term home ever since it left Plough Lane to share Selhurst Park, will now have to find a solution within England.

In another debate at the Fifa Congress in Paris England's 2006 World Cup bid was further strengthened when a Dutch proposal that countries within the same federation - such as England and Germany - should not mount simultaneous bids to host the World Cup was rejected.

Meanwhile, one of the people largely responsible for organising this month's tournament in Paris, Michel Platini, has said that French authorities have not been backing the World Cup and are not providing enough support.

Platini, the co-president of the World Cup organising committee, as well as being Sepp Blatter's running-mate in the Fifa presidential election, said: "France has done what it had to do, but nothing more," he said in an interview with a French newspaper. The man who was France's former national coach and was also arguably their best player, criticised what he sees as a laissez-faire attitude in general in France. "Not everybody feels concerned by this event. For example the Culture Ministry doesn't give a damn. We have no links with them," he said. "So in many areas nothing has been planned."

Preparations at many of the 10 venues depended solely "on the personality of the (local) mayor," he stated. But Platini was more confident about the hosts chances of winning the World Cup and said that 10 teams were in the running. "I think France can," he predicted. "Never has a World Cup been so open. Ten teams stand a chance of winning."

In the interview, Platini also defended the organisers' ticketing policy, which the European Commission said discriminated against foreign fans by making only one third of the 2.5m tickets available outside France. "The debate was over the last 180,000 tickets for the retail market," Platini said. "The European Commission wanted us to sell them to everybody but French people. I thought it was a bit too much and we did what we had planned. You have to defend those who pay their income tax in France and who allow stadiums to be built or renovated."

"When the European Commission donates money for stadiums, maybe we will be ready to discuss with them. It's a personal point of view. You have to be a bit of diplomat in such moments. I'm not really that."



Paul Scholes (centre), dunked by England colleagues Alan Shearer (left) and David Beckham, loosens the limbs at Bisham Abbey yesterday

Photograph: Adam Butler/PA

Scholes set to sparkle in the limelight

PAUL SCHOLES could be heading for a disastrous World Cup campaign. Distasteful, that is, in terms of his preferred image.

While his Manchester United contemporaries, David Beckham and Ryan Giggs, command the attention with their exciting activities both on and off the pitch, this 23-year-old is more than happy to play a quieter role.

"I'm just shy," he said yesterday, with a convincingly shy smile. "I don't like being in the limelight."

Well now, Paul, you could have a bit of a problem there, because you are about to take part in the world's biggest sporting event with all England expecting - or at least hoping - that you can fill the gap left by the lately departed Paul Gascoigne.

England's coach, Glenn Hoddle, has talked about the young Man-

chester United midfielder in glowing terms, referring to him as a potential jewel in the crown. And only this week the United manager, Alex Ferguson, described him as the most creative player in the England side.

Scholes' reaction, sensibly, is to draw confidence from such plaudits rather than shrink under the pressure of expectation. He is a sensible young man who has spent his money so far on the most sensible thing anyone can - a house. He has also invested in transport, in the quasi-practical rather than racy

form of a Cherokee Jeep. And he has a girlfriend who is not a Spice Girl. "I don't think it matters what you are like off the field as long as you are good on it," he said.

As he himself acknowledges, Scholes changes when he gets on to the pitch, becoming a volatile, volatile character. However, his emotions are still a world away from those of Gascoigne, whose exclusion from the final England squad came as a surprise to the United man.

Yet Scholes was quick to point out that six players had been cut from the squad on that day, and he felt the

loss more keenly than some as two of them were his club colleagues Phil Neville and Nicky Butt. The latter was to have been his room-mate in France. "It was impossible to feel pleased with yourself with those two being left out," he said. "It was one of the worst days I can remember. Seeing them walking away - it was horrible."

Asked what his own aims were for the forthcoming tournament, he was conservative. "I just want to play," he said. "I'll take it from there."

Hoddle, however, was happy to speak more eloquently in his favour yesterday. "This lad's got everything as an offensive player," he said. "He can play in different positions and he's going to get better and better. His end product is probably better than any of the youngsters at the

moment. He can score goals, he can make them, he tracks back, he gets his foot in. He's a tough little nut."

"And he's got the temperament - he just gets on with his work. I think sometimes because he does that he's not looked upon as a future superstar. He does all his talking on the football pitch."

"If he becomes a superstar, it will only be for what he's done on the pitch. Which isn't a bad way of doing it."

Hoddle's comment seemed to contain an unspoken comparison with the man whose role Scholes may, in part, take over.

Coincidentally, Gascoigne was one of Scholes' idols when he was young. "The first big memory I have of him is watching the 1990 World Cup," Scholes said. "I love the way

he plays, the way he beats people. It's sheer entertainment."

Scholes' ability to provide his own version of World Cup entertainment this year when he began to suffer with a knee problem. He reached the point when an operation was being considered - but then, thankfully, the knee responded to a couple of weeks rest.

He retains one other difficulty, namely the asthma which will require him to take a number of inhalers to France. "They are working well for me at the moment," he said, adding that the team doctor had told him there would be no problem with him playing a sequence of matches in close proximity.

Now that Gazza has gone, that means a more likely prospect. It is a welcome one, too.

Small beer for Spain

JAVIER CLEMENTE, Spain's World Cup coach, said yesterday that smoking and drinking could co-exist with football. "Smoking, in moderation, yes. And drinking in moderation too," he said when asked whether professional athletes could still get away with it in the modern age.

Moderation and social responsibility were the key, he said, and added that the fact that England's Paul Gascoigne and Teddy Sheringham had been seen smoking need not necessarily mean that they were unable to play football at

the highest level. "There's no problem, and besides Gascoigne and Sheringham are remarkable professionals on the field," he said.

Nwankwo Kanu of Nigeria set out his side's first full squad practice in France yesterday with what was called a minor ankle injury. Kanu, 21, who led Nigeria to the gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics, was reported to have met one of the team doctors and had his ankle iced. The young player has been beset by a series of lingering leg injuries over the past six months, hampering his come-

back from the heart valve surgery he underwent in 1996.

The Arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger, said yesterday that his Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp may have a long wait to start his World Cup. "I think he may miss more than just the first two games," Wenger said. "The fact that he hasn't played since our game against Derby will make the World Cup very difficult for him." Bergkamp missed Arsenal's run-in to the Premiership title after suffering a hamstring injury in April.

Fans face 'instant' fines

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

BRITISH fans who misbehave during the World Cup were reminded yesterday that they face almost instant fines, jail sentences or deportation. The British Embassy in Paris said there had been unprecedented cooperation between the governments and police forces of the two countries to weed out possible trouble-makers. A senior British police officer would be present in the security control room of every England

and Scotland game. Undercover British officers would mingle with the fans. Anyone arrested would appear within a few hours before special courts around the clock. The French government would provide free legal representation for accused fans. The British Ambassador, Sir Michael Jay, said the intention was to assure a peaceful and joyous "festival of football" for the majority of supporters. A certain amount of "exuberance" would be accepted but violent misbehaviour would be firmly punished. The em-

bassy also confirmed that members of the Royal Family would be travelling to several England and Scotland first phase games. The Prince of Wales and Prince William would be in Lens for the England v Colombia game on 26 June. The Duke of Edinburgh and Peter Phillips would watch Scotland against Brazil in the opening game tomorrow. The Duke of York will be in Marseilles for England against Tunisia a week today and Prince Edward will be in Bordeaux for Scotland and Norway on the same day.

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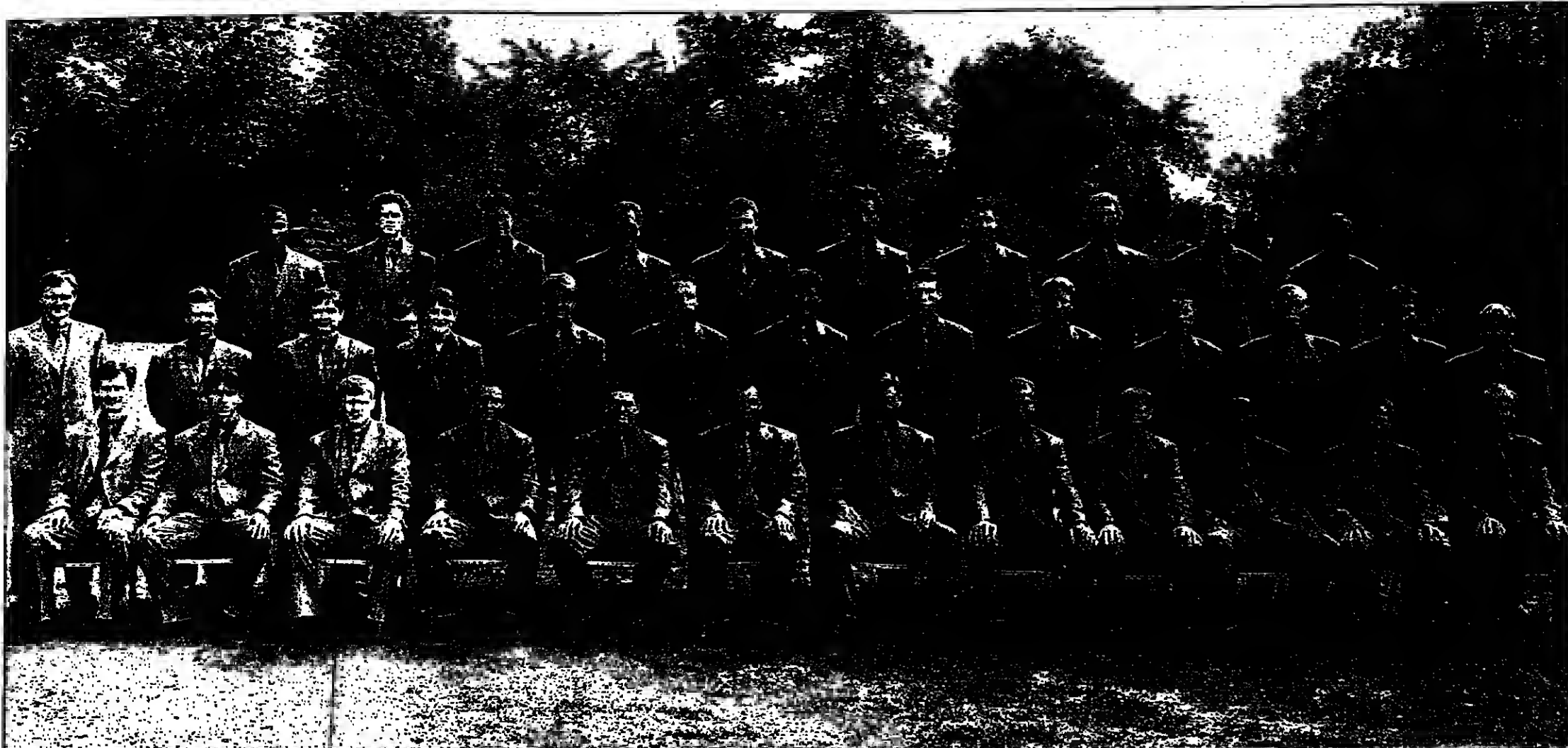
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The England squad and Football Association officials model their Paul Smith designed World Cup outfits before leaving for France. Although the players are believed to have favoured the dark blue version of the suit, Glenn Hoddle made the final selection decision, opting for the lightweight beige fabric set off by a blue shirt and pale Italian silk tie. The team will also sport specially designed cufflinks bearing the England crest. For official relaxation, Smith has designed a casual team outfit of shirt, T-shirt and shorts.
Back row (from left): L. Ferdinand, McManaman, Anderton, Clemence, Flowers, Seaman, Martyn, Adams, R. Ferdinand, Campbell, Middle: Lewin, Slattery, Byrne, Farrer, Beckham, Southgate, Sheringham, Keown, Merson, Lee, Crane, Sannes, Smith. Bottom: Roeder, Neville, Scholes, Le Saux, Owen, Gorman, Hoddle, Shearer, Batty, Ince, Taylor, Davies. Photograph: Action Images

Hoddle exudes confidence

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM



GLENN HODDLE spoke defiantly about England's World Cup prospects yesterday as his squad made ready for today's flight out to France.

England's preparations for the tournament, which gets under way tomorrow, have been disrupted in the last week by the furore over Teddy Sheringham's nightclubbing indiscretions. And yesterday Hoddle had to announce that two of his squad of 22 have been unable to train with their colleagues at Bisham Abbey - Sol Campbell, still recovering from the effects of a dead leg, and Graeme Le Saux, who has spent two days in bed with flu.

However, the England coach was

adamant that the players who will start their final match practice this afternoon with an informal game against a Caen XI were better prepared than those of any other team - and confident with it.

"I wouldn't be sitting here if I didn't think we could win it," he said. "And I think the players believe we can win it."

He dealt dismissively with the suggestion that he has had to rally his troops following the unsettling events of recent days. "I have not needed to say anything about it," he said. "So there, you have your answer."

He also settled the speculation over the question of whether he had decided upon his first-choice XI. "I know my line-up, if they are all fit and able," he said.

Hoddle acknowledged that there was heightened expectation in the country. "I like that - and I think it's

[something] the players will enjoy as well. I think it's going to be a tight World Cup. Probably tighter than ever. We can go with a lot of optimism. Whether we will win it remains to be seen - I think there are eight or nine countries that have the quality to do that.

"But it's an exciting time for the country; wherever we travel now, people are waiting for us. Just coming to the training ground they were outside their houses because they know the route we take. It gives us a buzz and there was a real excitement in training today, you could tell. There was an edge to the play. I think the players just can't wait to get out there."

That in itself has presented Hoddle with a problem of England's first match, against Tunisia, which does not come until five days after the opening game between Brazil and Scotland. "Because we don't play

until the 15th," Hoddle said. "It's like having a good horse three furlongs out. You have to hold it up your sleeve for a little while."

Asked to list the factors which give him optimism for the forthcoming competition, Hoddle mentioned the squad's mixture of youth and experience, their qualification from a difficult group and the experience of playing and winning in the Tournoi last year against Brazil, France and Italy. "It's not going to be the same as this tournament, obviously, but it was barometer," Hoddle said.

On the negative side was the squad's lack of any player with World Cup experience, something he acknowledged as a "massive bonus" for other teams in England's first-round group.

"But I think the positives outweigh the negatives. So I don't think we should be going there with any

fear. Plenty of respect for the new rules, plenty of respect for our opponents. But no fear. Because if, as a group of people, you get any fear, you are on a downward spiral."

While Hoddle did not go so far as to ascribe that emotion to either of his own World Cup campaigns as a player in 1982 and 1986, he did contrast attitudes in the past with those he was trying to engender now. "Sometimes in the past we might have gone in there with an attitude of 'Well, we're not quite sure how it's going to go'. It's a situation where you are putting things into neutral rather than going through the gears. I think we are more positive than that now on the back of getting to the Euro 96 semi-final and taking in the results we have achieved away from Wembley since then."

He hoped the players would be able to draw upon the World Cup experience of the coaching staff,

who also include Kenny Sanson and Ray Clemence. His own experiences had prepared him for a variety of fortunes in the forthcoming competition. In 1982, after a dream start, England went slowly downhill, whereas in 1986 they began disastrously before picking up a momentum that none had anticipated.

"If we have a bad start we won't be pressing the panic button," Hoddle said. "We have to keep an even keel."

The team's final preparations at Bisham Abbey yesterday were briefly interrupted by the arrival of a large sausage in England colours. The man inside the outfit - which was publicising a brand of salami - was apprehended by security staff. But it may be of some concern to Hoddle the way he was allowed to creep in on the blind side of England defences...

Stewart's daring strategy denied

CRICKET

BY JOHN CULLEY
at Edgbaston

ALEC STEWART is certain that the daring edge England have added to their game under his leadership can lead to triumph in the five-Test series against South Africa.

He will have to wait to prove it, however, after Birmingham's weather forced the abandonment of the first Test as a draw, denying him the chance to make a winning start as England captain.

England, 170 for 7 in their second innings after 45 overs of positive, attacking cricket on Sunday evening, had declared overnight, challenging South Africa to score 290 on the last day, which disappointingly saw not a single ball.

"I felt we were in the box seat," Stewart said. "It was our intention to score as many runs as we could on Sunday and then give ourselves all day to bowl South Africa out. We felt we had played daring cricket to go for our shots as we did, but sometimes you have to be prepared to risk defeat in order to win."

"I thought we had a good lead. It was not impossible for us to take 10 wickets in a day and, to be honest, I did not think they would be able to score 290."

"We'll never know now how it would have turned out but having played well for four days we can go forward with confidence. If we continue in this form, there is no reason why we cannot be smiling at the end of the fifth Test."

Stewart's predecessor, Michael Atherton, was named Man of the Match after his first-innings century and earned special praise from the new incumbent.

"He's been under a lot of pressure and showed his character here. Good players have had patches and great players come out of them. I'd put him in the latter category."

"I don't know whether it was not having the responsibility as captain that made it possible but I certainly never saw him play a reverse sweep as captain."

Stewart's counterpart, Hansie Cronje, conceded that the sub-standard performance by his bowling spearhead had been the difference between the sides, although his criticism of Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock was low key.

"They were short of a good rhythm," he said, "but they are allowed a bad day or two."

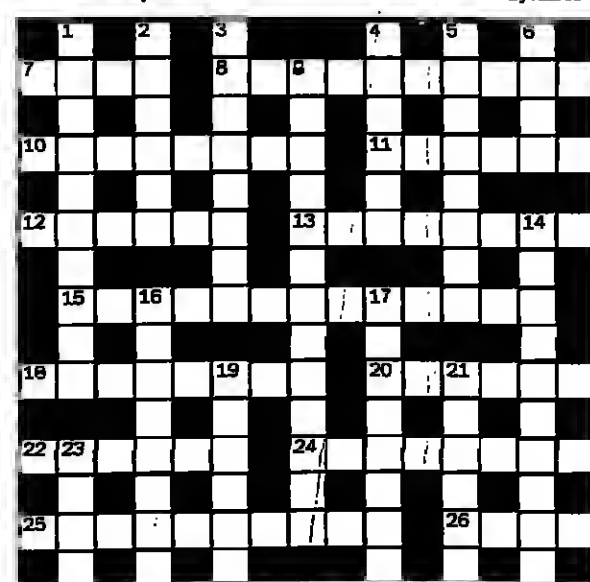
England's bold agenda, page 26

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3632, Tuesday 9 June

By Asford

Monday's Solution



CROSSER ACTION
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OVERHAUL ADEN
U R V R N
STRAND OMISSION
I O S A P M N
QUEL ENRAPTURE
R O E M L U U
UNAWAITS EXEMPT

- ACROSS**
- House one by a trick (4)
 - Old venomous type vandalised a tree to annoy (10)
 - A deficiency of commerce (5,3)
 - On return spots member having to set up tents (6)
 - Infrared device gets nurse endlessly annoyed (6)
 - They have experience as retired workers (3,5)
 - Attractive point? (8,5)
 - Reportedly have deficient understanding of submarine? (8)
 - Fit worker keeps company with male (6)

- DOWN**
- Monopolise market in grain supplied to sovereign (5)
 - Light I will turn on pit (8)
 - Can't cross a poor untouchable (10)
 - Read out letters of comfort (4)
 - Travel to island to find a moderate worker (10)
 - Book passage (6)
 - Specialised produced for Dee - Greek dish (8)
 - Has power to understand Flora? (6)
 - Unsuitable for Professor of Peace Studies? (8)

- ACROSS**
- Bit in newspaper is quite mature in parts (4)
 - A piano professional changed into maxi having a figure that's not quite right (13)
 - Make brute remove small perhaps in sea that's rough (10)
 - Writer on railway growth? (8)
 - Lords having no skill without one (8)
 - Pressure making lower abandon motorway (6)
 - Cold colour which road should have? (6)
 - Old friend has a jewel (4)

Johnson leaves Kendall in the dark over his Everton future

BY ALAN NIXON

THE EVERTON chairman, Peter Johnson, risked turning the club into a laughing stock yesterday by leaving Howard Kendall in the dark about his managerial future.

Johnson was supposed to telephone Kendall or fly in on his private jet to tell him face to face that his third reign was over, but instead, Kendall was left angry and embarrassed to have to field questions about his future at Goodison on his own. Kendall has steadfastly refused to resign, despite widespread reports he is to be fired and yesterday he was defiantly stating that he would be in charge at the start of the season.

Johnson made up his mind to sack Kendall on Friday, a decision backed unanimously by his board. Plans have already been drawn up for a successor, generally believed to be Martin O'Neill.

But to add to the confusion, O'Neill has already gone to France on World Cup duty with

the BBC - without telling Leicester City of his future plans. O'Neill may be Everton's first choice, but if he delays as badly as Johnson, Everton will switch to an alternative target later this week.

Kendall's backroom staff at Everton are also facing the sack, but his assistant, Adrian Heath, and coach, Viv Busby, were also in the dark yesterday.

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, yesterday said he wanted to buy a versatile full-back and also a young striker. He also confirmed he was discussing a new contract which could keep him at Highbury until 2002, but said that if he were to leave before then, he might return to Japan ahead of the 2002 World Cup, which Japan will co-host with South Korea.

Wenger said he is looking for players, but insisted that nobody - particularly Ian Wright - will leave Highbury this summer. "We will try to bring two to three players in. We need a full-back who can play on both sides because we have so many

competitions in next season. And maybe a young striker."

Earlier, Ajax confirmed they had turned down a £3m bid for Ronald de Boer from Arsenal, saying: "We will not let Ronald go until 2004, whatever offers we get."

Aston Villa have warned Mark Bosnich, Gary Charles, Mark Draper, Julian Joachim and Riccardo Scimeca that if they do not sign new contracts by 15 July, they will be put on the transfer list.

Jock Brown, the Celtic general manager, has denied the claims of sacked assistant coach Murdoch MacLeod that he interfered with team affairs and delayed bringing Paul Lambert to the club because he did not rate the player.

Brown accused MacLeod of criticising former manager Wim Jansen in his attempts to press his own claims for the job and claimed MacLeod tried to increase the terms of his own contract in October last year, just four months after arriving at Parkhead.

TODAY AT FRANCE 98

FIFA'S ELECTION

Sepp Blatter (right) is the new president of Fifa, world football's ruling body. In yesterday's election to succeed Joao Havelange, Blatter, a Swiss, beat Lemert Johansson, who then launched a bitter attack on the Football Association for supporting his opponent.



MARKET MOVES

The bookmakers' Corals have cut from 25-1 to 10-1 their price on four or more players being sent off in any one match in the tournament. Corals are offering 150-1 against either England or Scotland having three or more players sent off in any one of their games.

INJURY UPDATE

France's influential playmaker, Zinedine Zidane, has been unable to train in the past few days after suffering an ankle injury. He may miss France's opening match against South Africa this Friday.

OUTLOOK

The temperature in Paris is expected to be only 18C for tomorrow's opening game. Thunderstorms are possible.

OPENING CELEBRATIONS

Today's festivities in Paris to celebrate the start of the tournament have cost £5.2m alone to organise. The celebrations include processions and concerts around the capital.

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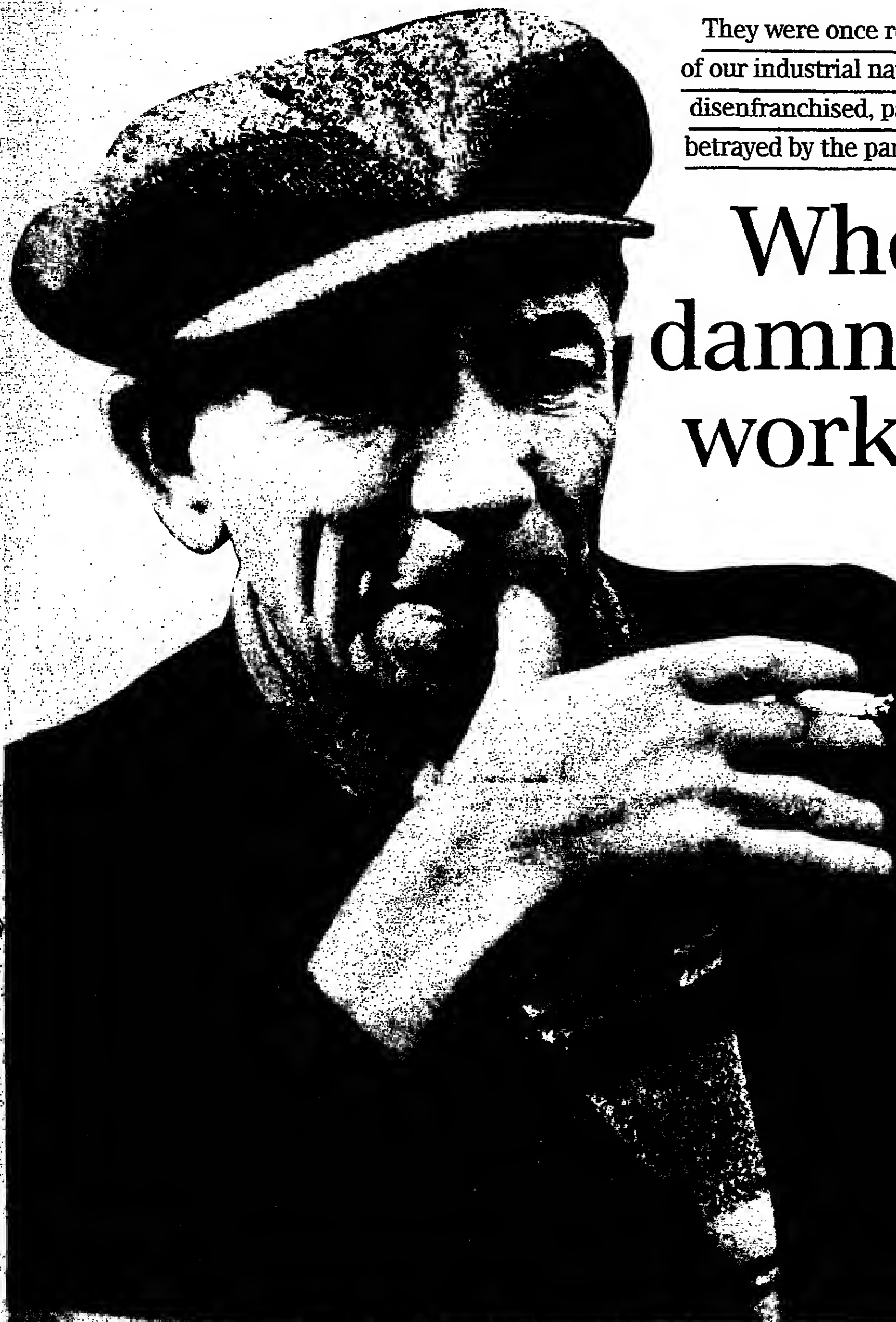
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هكذا من الأصل

TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



They were once romanticised and lionised, the rocks of our industrial nation. Now they've been stripped bare, disenfranchised, patronised and disregarded. They feel betrayed by the party that once represented them. So...

Who gives a damn about the working man?

BY SUZANNE MOORE

A WORKING-CLASS hero is something to be. So went John Lennon's own bitter-sweet symphony. But no one wants songs about the working-class men who aren't heroes, the ordinary blokes you see late at night with the beer bellies and their party buckets of fried chicken. Sure, even in the days of New Labour there are still those who romanticise the guts and grit of working-class life, who speak of the community and class solidarity of a mythical land. In reality the only mythical land anyone cares about is Middle England.

Meanwhile we flock to films such as *The Full Monty*, a portrayal of men flexible enough to retrain themselves for the ultimate service industry, stripping. Yet even as we laugh, every day it seems that this group of men becomes more and more disenfranchised, not only politically but culturally. New Labour does not pretend to care for working men, it takes their vote for granted and Tessa Jowell hopes whimsically that they might consume less cholesterol. Advertisers do not spend millions of pounds trying to reach the Ds and Es, the manual labourers, the semi-skilled and unskilled workers on their classification scales. AEs are what everybody wants. You are more likely to be courted as a consumer if you are an urban gay man than if you are a foundry worker in what is left of the steel industry. No, nowadays we have new categories: Lone Rangers - young women with large disposable incomes; Dinkies - double income, no kids; Grey Panthers. Not a lot of imagination goes into targeting the man, with a wife and four children, who makes mouldings. Even, horror of horror, the media ignores these guys.

Young men have their range of lad mags, but what magazine is a man over 40 on the dole supposed to buy exactly? *The Economist*? The tabloids are moving upmarket. Newspapers are becoming more "feminised". Page 3 may even go. Of course there is still the World Cup, but besides that, just what is there to cater for male working-class taste? Cheap beer?

The beer is cheap at The Dial House Social and Sports club in Walsley, Sheffield. This is a working man's club in Full Monty country, but a nice one.

"You can go down the road and see them all tattooed. Fights every Saturday. Here it's clean. People won't come out now to sit in muck. Suzanne," says Keith Chapman, who is in charge. Anyone can become a member, even policemen, which is a new development. This club is proud of its reputation with its own cricket team, bowls team, pensioners' trips, kiddies' pantomime. Line dancing is the new craze. They did salsa last year and even got some students in. They have top acts such as Showaddywaddy and the Beverley Sisters and falling that, good videos of the likes of Chubby Brown and Lily Savage.

It reminds me of the club where my mum worked as a cleaner. Women are always "ladies", except the strippers who perform on a Sunday lunch time. There are

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Out of one closet, into the next one

I WAS at a dinner party the other night when the subject of polenta came up. "Take polenta, for example," said somebody. "As an example of what?" said somebody else. "As an example of something that it is fashionable to like, which pops up in trendy places like the River Café, which is thought to be ever so ethnic and authentic, and yet which is absolutely horrible. It would seem impossible to turn maize into a stodgy, unappealing mess, but they have done it. The Italians! You might expect the Americans to make a mess of maize, but popcorn isn't half bad, until ground into cinema carpets..."

There was a silence.



MILES KINGTON

Normal, sexy, boy-interested girls play hockey, and look like a horse

"What's the point you're trying to make?" said someone, who spoke for all of us. "Just that because polenta is so very trendy, nobody dares say out loud that they don't like it. There must be other things that people don't like but don't say so." "Yes," said someone else. "I've never dared say this before, but fresh pasta is not as nice as dried pasta." There was a sharp intake of breath from someone who, I happened to know, was the owner of a fresh pasta maker. "Nick Horvitz," said someone else. "What about him?" "It's not cool to admit Nick Horvitz leaves you cold." "And does he?" "Yes. And so does Inspector Morse." And suddenly everyone came out of the closet and their unspoken, secret dislikes came tumbling out. "The Edinburgh Festival." "Angus Deayton."

"Jazz." "Loose Ends." "Rick Stein." "Melvyn Bragg." "Stand-up comedy." "Sting." "Stephen Fry." "Cornwall." "Seinfeld." "Holidays in France." "Hold on," said someone. "Do you think anyone would really be shocked if someone didn't like Seinfeld?" "I'd be shocked if anyone liked Jeremy Clarkson," said someone else. "Ah!" said the original speaker. "Maybe there's another list here. Things that people secretly like but don't say so..." "Like what?" "Peter Mayle?" Everyone laughed, but we got the idea, and another closet opened. "Linda McCartney." "Prawn cocktail." "Madonna." "Sandwich spread." "The Germans." "Oprah Winfrey." "Prince Charles." "UHT milk." "The Dome." "John Major." "Kenneth Branagh." "Kenneth Branagh?" said someone, puzzled. "Shouldn't he be on the other list?"

"He used to be," said the person who had put up Kenneth Branagh for membership, "but he moved on to the second list. It's quite possible to be so trendy that you don't admit to disliking it, but then go so out of fashion - or become so popular - that trends like us wouldn't be seen dead liking it." "Oh God," said somebody else. "Is this a third list? A list of things that have moved from one list to another?" "I think you're being unfair to the Germans," said someone else. "I can think of one good thing they've done. When there were German prisoners of war in Italy in the Great War, they encountered polenta for the first time and so disliked it that they named it 'the yellow peril'." Someone turned to me and said I hadn't added to any list yet. "I'm still worried about polenta," I said. "Someone said that even the Americans hadn't turned maize into a nasty, soggy mess. But they have." "What's it called?" someone asked. "Cornflakes," I said.

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

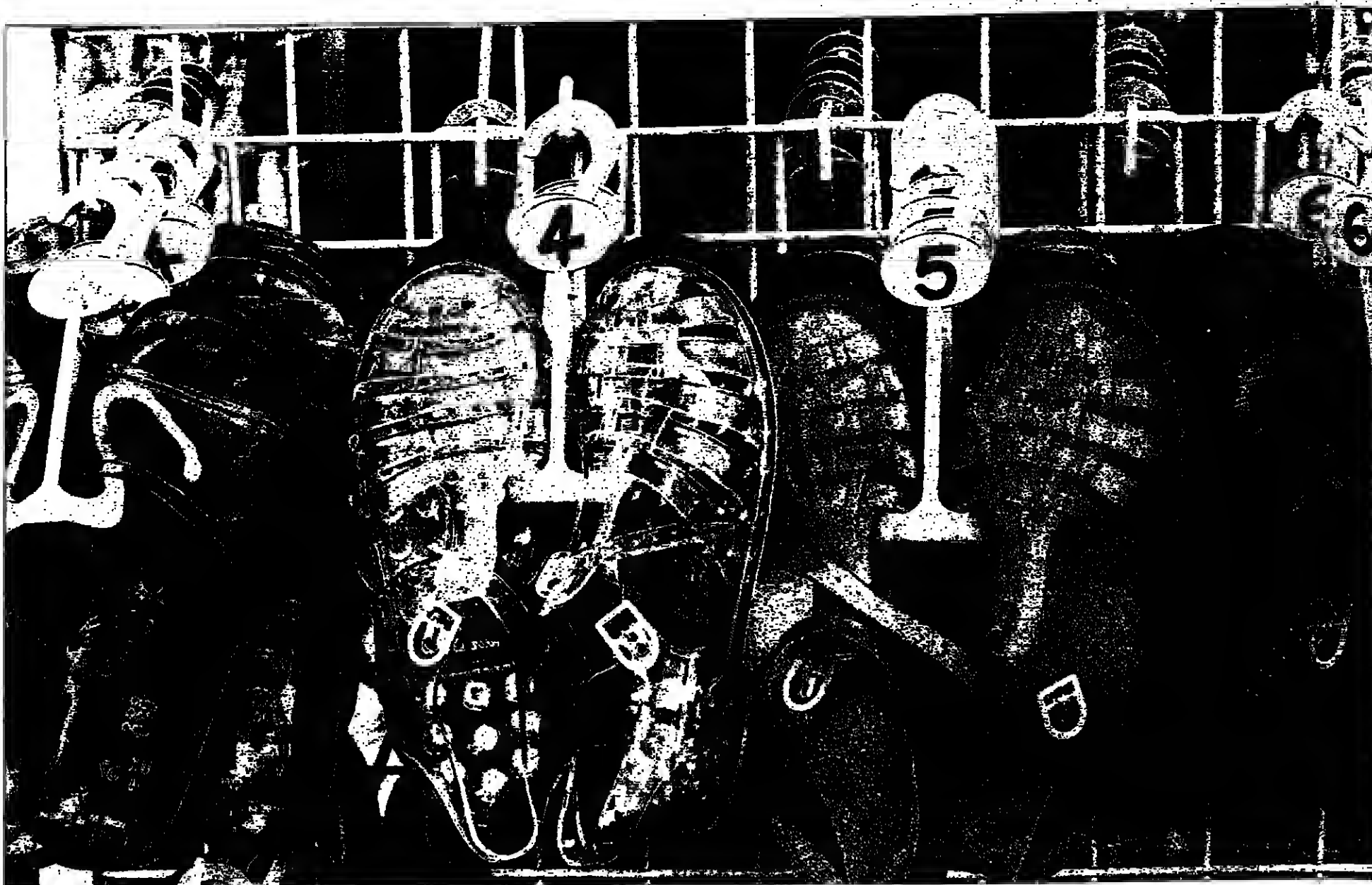
THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

THE INDEPENDENT
Bigger and better



Seaside Britain: Jelly shoes that will be filled by visitors to Bognor Regis. The first of a series of photographs by Nikki English on Britain's coastal resorts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Struggling schools

Sir: No doubt the article "The school that rose again from the ashes" (4 June) was supposed to be upbeat, but I found it depressing. A badly failing school is given a tough, energetic, imaginative head, a highly motivated, mainly new teaching staff, a lick of paint and a few rolls of carpet and, hey presto - a dramatically improved school. The message is simple, and for the Government very pleasing. Failing schools are created by poor teachers. Replace a weak staff by a good one and a failing school succeeds. Nothing to trouble the Chancellor here. One factor was almost hidden at the foot of the third column: "About 50 children were expelled or suspended during that summer term." Every teacher in an inner-city school has to face large numbers of difficult pupils, but most can cope with them. What makes the job impossible even for the most inspired teacher is the small number of severely disturbed pupils who are virtually beyond control. Just one such child can wreck a lesson. In even in the most difficult schools, most teachers would agree that if they could exclude just a couple of dozen such pupils they could transform the place. Sadly, even a handful is virtually impossible. A teacher can be sworn at or assaulted by a pupil only to have to teach the child a few days later. However, find your school under the spotlight as a failing school and suddenly you can throw out 50 of them. Meanwhile those schools which can just about cope are expected to slog on without relief. No articles praising their achievements, just the reward of finding themselves near the bottom of the league tables as they try to push a declining pool of able pupils through GCSEs whilst trying to keep the lid on the nation's unteachables. Dr STEPHEN SHAW, *Neathorpe, Nottinghamshire*

Sir: Your report and leading article on class sizes (4 June) seem to be the victims of spin. Let me inject some facts into your suggestion that the class size pledge won't work. First, our very clear pledge was to deliver a maximum class size of 30 for every five-, six- and seven-year-old by 2002 by phasing out the Assisted Places Scheme. Already we have passed the legislation to phase out assisted places; we have allocated £22m from Assisted Places from this September to 65 LEAs who have developed clear proposals to provide 1,500 extra teachers and smaller classes for 100,000 pupils. Second, we have also provided £40m which will be allocated to help to provide around 600 extra classrooms over the next year to allow parental choice of school to be met. Third, we have given clear guidance to LEAs and are taking the necessary legislation on class sizes through Parliament at present. Fourth, our infant class-size pledge is one of a number of important initiatives we are taking to improve primary school standards - and links with our commitment to improve literacy and

numeracy teaching and achievement.

All of this is on schedule - and the schedule was well publicised before the election. We will deliver our pledge ahead of schedule by September 2001. Naturally there will be those who wish to lobby us and put their own spin on matters. But the facts are different and the evidence locally is that the pledge can and will be delivered in a way which benefits pupils, parents and teachers. STEPHEN BYERS, *Minister of State, Department for Education and Employment, London SW1*

Sir: As a retired primary school headmaster I am bemused by the anxious concern about "mixed age" teaching (leading article, 4 June). Since when has birth control been so honed as to provide children in neatly packaged age groups to fit each school's individual requirements? In any case a child's reading age is more important in the planning of work than chronological age. The priority should be for reduction of class sizes. Then perhaps as much emphasis could be placed on class organisation as on curriculum content. W GLYN JONES, *Bolton, Greater Manchester*

Answers for Africa

Sir: As one who spent many years in African countries, I agree with Suzanne Moore ("Clare Short is Right", 5 June) that these places are far from being all doom and gloom, but also that humanitarian aid, while totally laudable, provides no long-term solution to the problems that exist. The problem is really the one that the Government has recognised at home: welfare or work. For "welfare" read "charity", for "work" read "sustainable development". But neither is developmental aid necessarily the answer. Billions upon billions have been poured into Africa during the last thirty-odd years and the continent is in a worse state now than it was at the start. Neither is the answer to be found in a blanket moratorium on debts which, in places such as Sudan, would merely enable the ruling factions to spend more money on arms. People in the West are frequently asked to use their generosity to save people from the incompetence or brutality of their own governments, while our governments do little to bring rogue governments to heel or to assist in their removal. Such aid as is given should be channelled into sustainable development. This means anything other than large-scale, prestigious, technology-dependent projects in places where neither the infrastructure nor the manpower exists to sustain them and which are ripe for exploitation by the ruthless parasites who prey on the misery of the poor. Developmental aid has all too often been a means of guaranteeing markets for the donor country while swelling the bank accounts of the ruling classes. If Robin Cook's ethical foreign policy is to mean anything, Britain

must take the lead in getting the world to adopt the following agenda: 1. "Name and shame" countries who abuse civil rights or conduct civil wars. 2. Ban the sale of arms to all listed countries with ruinous penalties (such as withdrawal of trading licences) on companies who violate the ban. 3. Declare debts interest-free or nonrepayable only for those Third World countries who satisfy the Geneva Convention on Human Rights, retaining the option of renewing the interest and repayments on all countries who backslide. 4. In countries which conform to the accepted standards, begin local, small-scale projects, administered by aid agencies, on a low-interest loan basis providing infrastructure (roads, vehicles, irrigation, medical care, literacy programmes), technology and vocational training. To begin with these projects will be little more than an extension of subsistence agriculture. The initial aim should be to grow more food and to plan in such a way that the questions of starvation and malnutrition never again arise for the small number of people dependent on each project.

Only if we use the power of the developed world to ensure that all the world's citizens live in an environment guaranteeing basic human rights can we ensure that minimum standards of material prosperity exist everywhere. While charity provides the only solution, situations such as the one in southern Sudan will be recurring nightmares. STUART RUSSELL, *Poulton, Gloucestershire*

Blair or Machiavelli

Sir: Machiavelli would have given somewhat better advice to the Prime Minister and Chancellor than Donald MacIntyre, who dismisses the effect of high interest rates on British industry and seems more concerned with the success of government tactics than the ultimate result of their reliance on interest rates to govern both the level of demand and the level of the pound (Comment, 5 June). Machiavelli was, above all a realist. He would surely point out that this small country which lived on its wits had to sell more than it bought; that, for that, it depended on its industry. So if a government crippled its industry in its first year of office by a high pound which made it uncompetitive and high interest rates which undermined its capacity to invest in new products, neither industry nor the economy would be likely to recover in time for the next election. He might go on to suggest that the point at which to change from the absurd reliance on interest rates alone to govern both domestic demand and the exchange rate was four years before the next election when the Government's huge majority would be judged entirely on its performance and not on excuses or promises. He would agree that the Government had made some

unfortunate electoral commitments not to use taxation as a regulator of demand and not to seek the help of its trading partners in supporting the currency at a fixed but competitive rate. So the peak of his political skill would have been to find new external conditions, unforeseeable at the election, which compelled government to act speedily, despite its previous commitments, and gave it the solid economic success needed to win the next election. Sir FRED CATHERWOOD, *Cambridge*

Second homes

Sir: No one group forces another out of a community in this country, rather what we see in the countryside is merely an extension of the mobility that started several hundred years ago. From the countryside to industrial areas, pursuing prosperity to the cities, the population has shifted. When the cities became full and transport links allowed, the suburbs grew; and subsequently some city workers felt that the time spent commuting was well spent in order to move back to the countryside. The experiences of Mr Collins in the Lake District (letter, 6 June) should be treated seriously, but not by punitive taxation of second homes, which would adversely affect those, like me, who do not drive Mercedes to "chocolate box" suburban houses, but have decided to remove their vehicles from the commuter routes and live close to a place of work during the week, whilst maintaining family homes and links with the community elsewhere. This is not a cheap option, but beneficial to the environment and to productive and healthy use of time, and paying only one-and-a-half times the council tax of others seems a reasonable compromise, but hardly generous.

The imposition of 200 per cent taxation will not dissuade the "chocolate box" hunters and provide houses for "the locals" - only employment prospects will do that. Rather, increased costs may persuade me, and many others, to add vehicles to the already congested and polluted commuter routes. RICHARD J CROWE, *London W3 and Thame, Oxfordshire*

Gazza's tears

Sir: Any working man or woman is bound to feel a sense of injustice (or even jealousy) at the phenomenal amounts of money most Premiership players earn these days. None more so than Ken Jones, who despises tears in the eyes of these superstars ("Sport and crying don't mix", 4 June). Mr Jones seems to feel the sting all the more sharply because he comes from a family of footballing folk who experienced wage restrictions in their playing days. As a regular reader of *The Independent* I am becoming increasingly aware of Mr Jones's bitterness. The tears of a Gazza have the

capacity to move people not because they are justified but because they are so fundamentally sincere. The man failed and is being punished for not taking care of his body. Anyone on his wages should know better, but that is hardly the point. Gazza is a folk hero, an icon of popular success. The fact that he is incapable of controlling his self-destructive urges only makes him the more human, the more understandable to a generation of success-hungry people who dare not contemplate the possibility of failure. MARC FRANCIS, *Brussels*

Queer Warhol

Sir: I must protest against the puritan jibes of Tom Lubbock about Warhol in his review of the current show at the Barbican (2 June). Warhol encapsulates something of immense historical importance about American capitalist culture in the late 20th century. In everything he did (films, paintings, magazines, books, collectibles) he expressed his fascination with capitalist commodity fetishism with great wit and camp good humour, as this hugely enjoyable show demonstrates. The artist and the gay man cannot and should not be separated. They were one. For many of "us" Warhol is an exemplary queer artist. ROGER COOK, *Lecturer in Fine Art, The University of Reading*

IN BRIEF

It is disingenuous of Professor Akbar Ahmed (letters, 4 June) to dismiss the dangers of the Pakistani bomb as yet another example of "Islamophobia". Pakistan's nuclear weapons are more dangerous because they, unlike those of India, are controlled not by the civilian government, but by the army, an army itching to avenge its defeat at the hands of the Indians during the Bangladesh war of 1971. FRAKASH SHAHI, *London NW7*

Tragic though it was, the 1988 Clapham crash is far from being Britain's worst rail disaster (report, 4 June). About 227 died in the 1915 Quintinshill collision and fire, and there have been eight further disasters with death tolls greater than that at Clapham. RUSSELL ASH, *Leaves, East Sussex*

Consciousness may be difficult to define ("Does your pet have an inner life?" 8 June) but is comprehensible nonetheless. The difference between a malfunctioning washing machine and a sick dog is that, for most people, the former elicits irritation and the latter compassion. Anyone who denies that a dog has a consciousness is out of their mind. JAMES EARL, *Lecturer in Philosophy, Richmond, the American International University in London, London W9* P.S. for those interested in the correlation between philosophers and pets, I am the proud owner of Sable, a black cocker spaniel.

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Mr Prescott: a minister on the right road

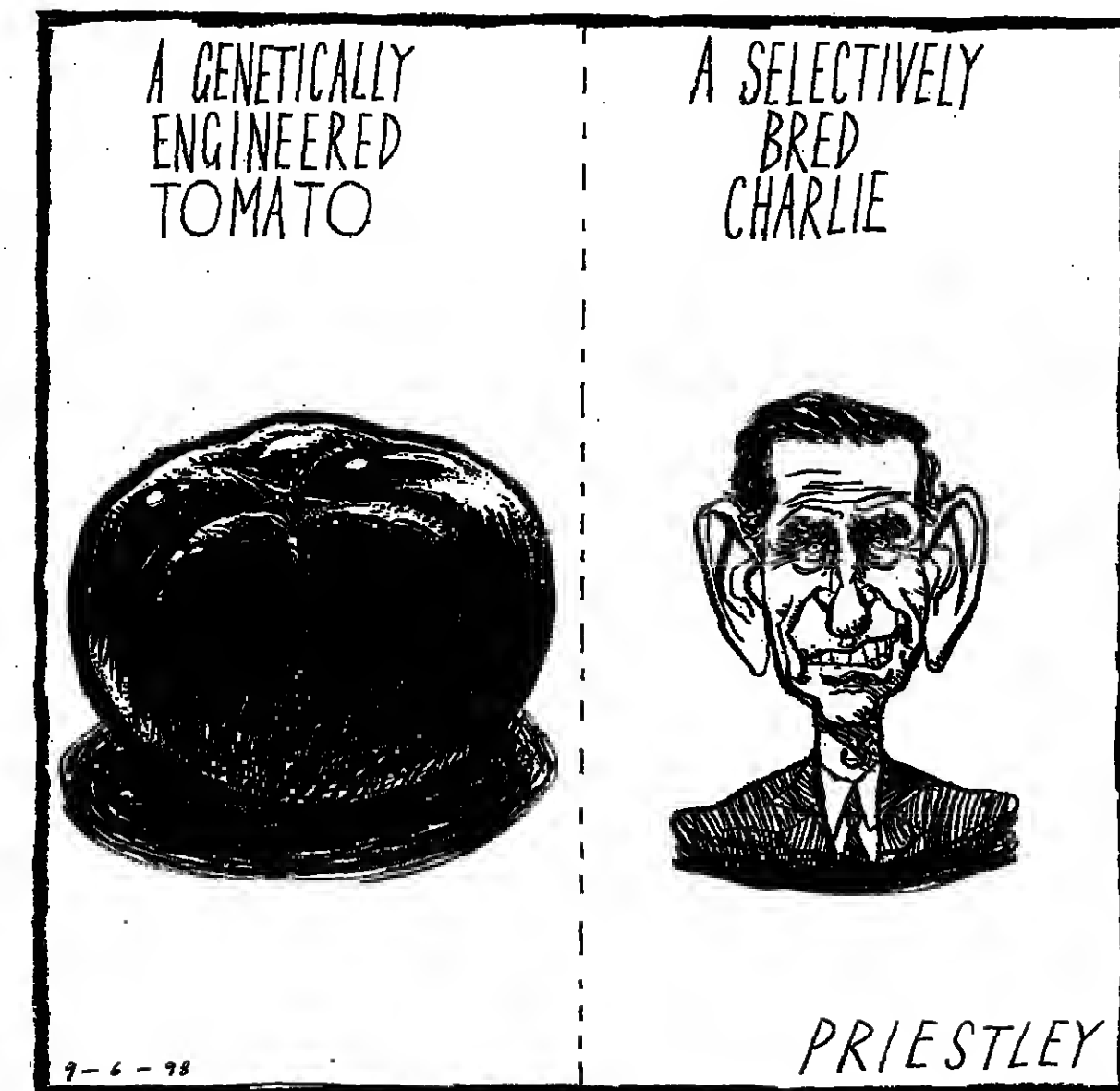
IF ONLY there was a magic wand waiting to be waved. At a stroke, all our transport problems would disappear. We would have reliable, affordable and comprehensive public transport. Traffic would flow. Road rage would disappear. We would all drive environmentally friendly cars. The sun would always shine, and ... but there is no magic wand. There is no "solution" to our transport problems, only a series of measures that can help alleviate one of this country's most intractable problems.

The decision to delay the publication of the white paper on transport until the completion of the comprehensive spending review in July is a good one. A result of the newly minted love-in between John Prescott and Gordon Brown, it means that when it is finally published it should be better able to answer the question: where's the beef? The decision that transport should join health and education as a spending priority for the next three years is welcome and shows that the Government realises that the transport infrastructure has knock-on effects well beyond the speed with which we can travel from A to B.

As our report today shows, the Government appears to have learnt the lesson from the hammering its first (leaked) proposals took, that progress in transport does not mean simply attacking the motorist. Rather it means helping to bring about a balance. Often motorists are portrayed as if they are some sort of alien species, whose interests are destined always to frustrate the more worthy objectives of the rest of us. But we are almost all motorists, and the point is not that there is a divide between motorists and the rest, but that transport policy should instead offer us an alternative between the car and public transport. There are very few of us who use only one form of transport.

The Government's approach of promoting a series of different measures rather than a grand sweeping corporate plan is sensible. The White Paper will propose, for instance, greater security for the car parks which make park-and-ride schemes possible and which are now often an open invitation to car thieves. Again, small-scale schemes, such as the cycle bridge built over a railway line in Leicester that enables hundreds of children to cycle to school in safety, are a tiny but significant contribution towards cutting back on the congestion caused by the school run.

The plain fact is, however, that most worthwhile improvement - and certainly the necessary investment in public transport - costs money and takes time to have an effect. Congestion charges, increases in petrol duty, road charging and charges on parking at out-of-town supermarkets are all possibilities. But Mr Prescott should avoid the superficial attractiveness of hypothesising extra revenue towards extra transport spending. Why stop at transport? Why not defence? Or social security? If the case for extra spending is so compelling, then he should be confident enough to make it on its own merits.



More attractive is the idea of a motorists' charter, which would set out the rights and responsibilities of those bodies such as the Highways Agency and the DVLA that look after our roads and the cars that travel on them. We all have horror stories of major road works which are concentrated on the rush hour while the site stays deserted on a Sunday evening. But the balance is again crucial. Local authorities tend towards a rigid application of rules and are often responsible for so-called traffic-calming measures which do little except incite road rage. In all these areas, the key point is to be flexible and to go with the flow.

These caveats aside, Mr Prescott's thoughts are on the right lines, and he deserves support.

These caveats aside, Mr Prescott's thoughts are on the right lines, and he deserves support.

Genetics and the Monarchy

FIRST ARCHITECTURE, now genetic engineering. Truly, the Prince of Wales is a Renaissance man. He is, of course, perfectly right to observe that we need much more information about the effects - or lack of them - of genetically engineered food. But we have to wonder whether the Prince of Wales is really the man to tell us.

The monarchy is living in turbulent times. It has just about recovered from the knock it took in the aftermath of the Princess of Wales's death. But the very foundation of the monarchy - the hereditary principle - was set on the path towards abolition in the House of Lords yesterday. Prince Charles is an intelligent man, with a range of interesting opinions. He of all people should be able to see the danger of using his position - acquired by that same hereditary principle - to float controversial views. Tempting as it must be for him, he should keep quiet. The monarchy is, if it has any relevance to the world today, a symbol of the nation. As such, it must be above all controversy. It must indeed be difficult for the Prince to live with the knowledge that the one thing he must not do is share his views with us. But if he feels able to tell us today what he thinks about genetics, what is to stop him moving on to the homeless tomorrow, or fiscal policy the day after? He appears to see his role as being to initiate debate. He is wrong. When Emperor Akihito refused to apologise for Japanese war crimes many commentators sneered. But under the Japanese constitution he is quite clearly unable to say anything in the least political. Prince Charles should take a leaf out of his fellow royal's book.

The last laugh

ALMOST EVERY article ever written on the Internet has contained one common theme: as the information age takes over, so we will see the gradual disappearance of the book and the printed word. What delicious irony it is, therefore, that the only runaway commercial success on the Net is the American online book shop, Amazon.com - which proudly boasts that it can find any out-of-print title. How passé! Its success, and the news that W H Smith, purveyor of that recherché phenomenon, the book, has just bought Amazon's British challenger, Bookshop.co.uk, are no doubt explained by the more accurate description of the two sites' prefix, www, as "world-wide web".

Memo to government: our enterprise culture is thriving

DO WE, as a society, approve of entrepreneurs? I believe we do. But I raise the question because, over the weekend, I happened to read that cabinet ministers are proposing to tell Britain's wealth creators that they are not matching up to their American counterparts - in other words, that we don't have much of an enterprise culture.

But whether we do or do not, nothing could be siller than members of the Government exhorting entrepreneurs to pull their socks up, they might as well tell the England football team to play better. I hope the story was erroneous.

That Britain's enterprise culture compares poorly with the situation in the United States is expected to be shown by a study which will be launched on Thursday at a breakfast meeting to be held by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, and Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster General.

I know the kind of figures that can be used to support this assertion. The amount of private capital put up for new businesses in the UK last year was just over £1bn compared with nearly £28bn in the US. Plus, only 10 per cent of the British total went to high technology companies compared with 70 per cent across the Atlantic.

The other statistic which is often quoted is that the miserly £1bn also compares badly with the large amount of finance made available in this country by banks and investment institutions for management buy-outs, approaching £20bn annually.

Management buy-outs take place when the directors of a company that

is part of a larger group decide that they could achieve a better performance if their business was independent. Given their freedom, they might be able to raise much-needed fresh capital that their parent company had been unable to supply, or provide better incentives for staff, or introduce improved working practices and so on.

Management buy-outs are really a way of unpicking the unwise mergers of the past. To my mind, it is very welcome that a lot of such deconstruction is going on.

Not enough high tech start-ups? Perhaps not, but entrepreneurs tend to operate wherever they find attractive prospects. The list of the nation's top 100 entrepreneurs published in the latest issue of *Entrepreneur* magazine is revealing.

It shows that 10 of them made their fortunes in computers, nine in software, and six in mobile phones. Thus, one quarter of those listed have been working in information technology, which lies at the heart of the industrial revolution through which the world is passing. Their predecessors 175 years ago would have been developing steam power in all its forms.

The entries on the current list are just what one would hope to find. And in software, by the way, British companies are greatly respected in the American market for their sheer inventiveness. When you go to see Microsoft or Intel, a British address on the visiting card is almost an advantage.

A discussion devoted to entrepreneurs took place on Talk Radio on Friday morning on the Scott Chisholm

ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH
Nothing could be sillier than members of the Government exhorting entrepreneurs to pull their socks up

show in which I participated. It was an excellent seminar on the subject.

There you heard the authentic voices of entrepreneurs, as listeners called in to recount their experiences. "Somebody told me that if I bought a particular type of lorry, they would give me work for it," said one who went into to make a success of a haulage business. A woman who is now running her own market research company said: "I was lucky opportunity came along and I took it. Often people don't recognise opportunity until it's gone."

There were many different ideas of what made a good entrepreneur. One advanced the Japanese doctrine of

kaizen or continuous improvement. Tim Waterstone, the bookseller, argued that the crucial quality is getting people to go along with you - staff, suppliers, banks, shareholders. "Somehow to work the alchemy so that people want to support you, want to go with you - that is a precious attribute," Tim Waterstone's view was that the first four to five years "are always brutal".

Most new businesses begin in the proverbial back room or garage, and then sidle along with funds either previously saved or provided by family and friends until they are solid enough to turn to conventional sources of finance. That is why they do not show up in the statistics for raising start-up capital.

The original financing of *The Independent* in 1986 was an exception to this rule, because a national newspaper cannot begin in a tiny way and then grow. It has to be started full-out. But when called upon, the City institutions did put up £100k. And a few years later their £1 shares were bought out for over £3 each. The system worked for the launch of *The Independent* and will continue to do so whenever an interesting proposition is put forward.

We do indeed have an enterprise culture, not least because, for 20 years, successive chancellors of the exchequer, beginning with Geoffrey Howe in Mrs Thatcher's first cabinet, have found ways of encouraging the entrepreneurs.

Last week, for instance, Gordon Brown announced the creation of three new venture capital funds with £240m to invest, part of the money

comes from the European Union. In the Budget, the Chancellor outlined a £50m University Challenge Fund to provide scientists with "seed" capital. This culture, too, is spreading. A recent report for Demos, by Charles Leadbeater, argued that social entrepreneurs will be as important in the next decade as business entrepreneurs.

In Mr Leadbeater's formulation, social entrepreneurs are like business entrepreneurs in the methods they use - they can make something from nothing, and create innovative forms of welfare, health care and housing which are both cheaper and more effective than the traditional services provided by government.

The final proof is surely that successful entrepreneurs are greatly admired.

Richard Branson's achievements in business are so highly regarded that people put forward his name to be president should the country become a republic, or to be mayor of London in the forthcoming elections. Similarly, Anita Roddick is a role model for many. Chris Evans is beginning to earn additional kudos for being an entrepreneur as well as a radio personality.

I say two things to government ministers. Look past the statistics and comparisons with other countries to what is really going on around you. You will not be disappointed.

Second, even if you accept my thesis that we have a healthy enterprise culture, do not relax. Adopt the notion of kaizen in government and engage upon a programme of continuously improving the help which the state can provide.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I don't want to get into a slanging match with the Treasury. I repeat what we have already said: This is not a tax protest. It's a business decision."
Bernard Donoherty,
spokesman,
the Rolling Stones

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Between the idea/And the reality/Between the motion/And the act/Falls the Shadow.
T.S. Eliot: The Hollow Men

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Leader: Le Monde (France)

WE CANNOT continue to indulge the Yugoslav president under the pretext that a negotiated settlement can only be obtained through him.

He must be threatened - politically, legally and with the military.

If Moscow continues to protect "the man of Belgrade", we should even consider withdrawing our financial help, of which Russia is so desirous.

In short, we Westerners must dare now to give ourselves a new Balkan objective: to have done with Milosevic.

Noel Malcolm: Time (US)

IT IS a virtual certainty that Kosovo will become independent from Serbia within the next 50 years. The only question is: how do we get from here to there?

A negotiated solution based on a prolonged interim phase,

like the one agreed for Chechnya by General Alexander Lebed, may be possible, but only if the Albanians are assured that independence remains an eventual option.

With Western governments blithely telling them that even long-term independence is out of the question, the chances for "stability" in the Balkans are slender indeed.

MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Today: the West's response to the Kosovo crisis

Peter Lipman: 'Nando Times' (Internet)

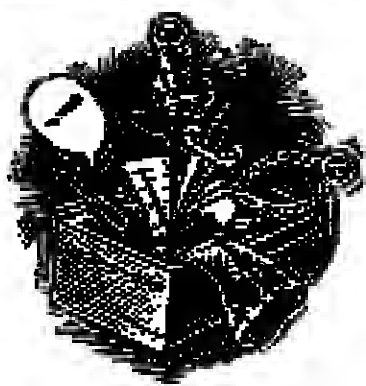
KOSOVO's underground Albanian government, led by Ibrahim Rugova, has successfully advocated a non-violent response to Serbian repression - and this in a region where the blood feud was practised unrelentingly. But his leadership has been passive and the Albanians' patience has not been rewarded.

In response, small groups of Albanians in the countryside have armed themselves.

It's doubtful that they have any chance of beating the better-equipped Serbian police and army.

After last month's massacre in the central region of Drenica, the Kosovo Liberation Army is unlikely to gain the necessary sympathy and support from the outside world, other than Albania, to defeat the Yugoslav People's Army.

The West will intervene militarily only if there are many more Drenica's, and by then it will be too late.



PANDORA

HAILED for his bravery last week after he rebuked the Prime Minister for encouraging "fawning and obsequious" parliamentary questions, the Labour backbencher Andrew Mackinlay can hold his head high. But Pandora has learnt that Mackinlay - whose question implied that many questions asked by Labour backbenchers were thoroughly rehearsed - did some rehearsing of his own. Before he ever rose to his feet in the House, he was coached by Dennis Skinner, who took pains to ensure that Mackinlay did not fluff the word "obsequious". Odd that, since it's the last word you would associate with the Beast of Bolsover.

IT SEEMS the latest male sexual wonder drug is already, indirectly at least, making an impact on the frontiers of British fashion. Word reaches Pandora of a must-see fashion show coming to the Cornerhouse arts centre, in Manchester, in July. Two sisters, the fashion designer Helen Storey and the biologist Dr Kate Storey, have collaborated on a collection of clothes whose theme is the first 1,000 hours of human life. Called Primitive Streak, a high highlight is the "1,000 sperm coat" which is described as "embroidered onto dissolved fabric". Pandora wonders if all the It Girls will be sporting these to ward off next autumn's chill? Of course the show is being sponsored by Pfizer, manufacturers of Viagra.

THE HIGH PRICES of football tickets and team merchandise have long been a preoccupation of MP Nigel Griffiths, the Trade & Industry Under-Secretary. Readers of his column in the now defunct Labour Party News will recall Griffiths's zealous protests against clubs who exploited their loyal fans. Now that he is in a position to do something, Griffiths has ensured that the Office of Fair Trading is undertaking a review on football strip prices.

However, when Pandora rang the OFT, a spokesman said that an individual club could be forced to reduce its ticket prices only if it has a 25 per cent share of the entire UK football market. Otherwise they were "in a position to charge what they like". Even giants like Manchester United and Arsenal fall woefully short of 25 per cent of the 24,680,053 football tickets sold in this country last year. Pandora suggests Griffiths in-

roduce a special bill in the next parliamentary session to set price controls on all football events and gear. Surely this would make him - and New Labour - heroic in the eyes of Britain's largest interest group. And would any Opposition member have the nerve to vote against it?

WAS the Little Tramp a paedophile? Yes, without a doubt, according to his latest biographer, the Harvard professor Kenneth Lynn whose book *Charlie Chaplin and His Times* documents numerous instances of Chaplin's controversial, indeed scandalous, sexual behaviour. His wives included Mildred Harris, who claimed she first slept with Chaplin when she was 13 and Lillita McMurray, who met him at age 12, and whom Chaplin called "the age of innocence" until they split when she became "the bitch".

Other Chaplin conquests included a ten-year-old actress named Mabelle Pomeroy and an unnamed girl of eight. Professor Lynn told a New York Post reporter, "I admire Chaplin tremendously as an artist. But I would not have allowed him anywhere near my granddaughters."

HOW PLEASING to receive an invitation to this evening's London film premiere of *Stiff Upper Lips*, a send-up of British costume epics such as *A Room With A View* and *A Passage To India*. The invitation promises a glittering party afterwards at the Cafe des Amis which will be attended by cast and crew, including Sir Peter Ustinov, Prunella Scales and, intriguingly, the actor Brian Glover, who died on 25 July 1997.



The Manchester United striker Teddy Sheringham

The shocking truth: I'm not a lad

IT WAS the cake. Lying in bed, bug-eyed and clammy-skinned, at 3 am, I suddenly understood why I'm feeling unusually wakeful. Earlier in the evening, the goalkeeper had produced his own contribution to the evening, homemade to his own special recipe and, politely, I had taken a large slice. Homemade? Special? Ganja cake, of course. Here I am, in my own bed, in my own house, stoned out of my box. No wonder I can't sleep.

Not that the reggae party going on downstairs helps too much. Nor the loud voices and occasional bursts of guitar, nor the occasional bewildering thud that, to my poor befuddled brain, seems to shake the house to its foundations.

What an excellent idea this was. A Saturday night away from London for the football team. Tomorrow morning, we'll be playing a local Norfolk village side but, before then, it's a night out for the lads. Beer, barbecue, laughs, music and - dashing the hopes of the midfielder who, with tragic innocence of the night life of Diss, has brought two packets of three - not a woman in sight.



TERENCE BLACKER

I suppose I'm not alone among domesticated males in yearning now and then to get in touch with my inner lad

Someone's hit the volume. The juddering thuds are becoming more frequent. It occurs to me that, as manager, I might now be obliged to involve the Teddy Sheringham ruling and suggest, that, in view of the big match tomorrow, a few hours' sleep might not be a bad idea. But

they're having such a good time and this was what a lad's night out was always meant to be - an escape from families and babies and guilt.

Sod it. Half an hour later, I'm downstairs. In a casual, non-authoritarian way, I ask them to pack it in for the night. The thudding continues. I pad about the house, eventually discovering that a defender is perfecting his penalty-taking skills against the back of the house. "You're kicking against my wall," I shout feebly into the darkness.

Back in bed. A sort of silence descends upon the house. Then, from under my window, the ominous "tock" of wood against wood. Some of the team are winding down with a tam game of croquet. I really think they've had enough now. Have they any idea what time it is?

I suppose I'm not alone among domesticated males in yearning now and then to get in touch with my inner lad, to return to a bawdy, innocent, prelapsarian past of had behaviour, before responsibility began to exert its iron grasp. We dream of being able to sit around, smoking, lagered up, getting it down us, telling inappropriate jokes,

occasionally breaking wind in a comradely fashion.

The fact that some of us never were authentic, fully-fledged lads, even when we were lads, doesn't shake our belief that, at the right time, in the right place, our healthy, innate boorish maleness will burst into glorious bloom. Within every Gary Lineker among us, a Gazza is waiting to stagger forth. All we need is our own private Five Belles to lead us astray.

By morning, I've discovered that my inner lad doesn't exist; instead I have an inner Mum. As I rouse the team with some difficulty, set up breakfast, clear away some of the debris of the night before, I find that the real me is emerging, good-humoured but tight-lipped and slightly put upon, wiping down surfaces with a martyred air.

I love my team very much. Once a week from October to April, we meet, chat briefly while changing, go out and play the silky-skilled yet committed football for which we're famous, have a quick drink and then go our separate ways. But now, honestly, talk about irresponsible. They're husbands, fathers, citi-

zens, some of them have even got jobs, and yet they're as sublimely self-contained and oblivious to others as teenagers. How do they manage that? I'm jealous.

We get stuffed. Of course we get stuffed. What did we expect when half the team can hardly see the goal, let alone put the ball into it? 1-0. As we leave the pitch, there are a few heated and acrimonious discussions as to who was to blame for the defeat but, in the bar with the opposition, we're all just Sunday footballers together.

Afternoon. The team's hard core lingers on consuming the brandy and beer that one of them has bought with the money he was meant to pay me for last night's bar-becue. I've gone a bit silent now, as I collect the beer cans from under the bushes around the garden. Eventually, even they get the hint.

After they've gone, I grant myself a bit of quality time in a deckchair, rerunning this morning's 90-minute hangover of a game and the long, arduous night before. Then I get out the Hoover, a duster, even - yes, I'm not afraid to admit it - the Pledge, and set to work.

Why I'm happy to 'play God' with your food

Prince Charles has given voice to widespread public concern about transgenic crop plants. We genetic engineers are "playing God" and threatening "living pollution that cannot be recalled". But is there real cause for concern?

I've worked with transgenic plants for 15 years, in the US and the UK. The more I do it, the less I worry about it. It's striking that in contrast to the nuclear and chemical industries, there are no whistleblowers; people who work with the technology do not experience alarm about how it is being deployed.

Remember when nuclear power was going to make electricity "too cheap to meter"? We've all been disappointed. But that doesn't mean that everything every scientist says is untrue. Much is made of the BSE scare, but scientists said they could not be sure if brains of BSE cattle were safe to eat, and MAFF perversely took this to mean there was no need for caution. Blame MAFF, not the scientists.

Environmental concern led me to a career in plant biology; we cannot take our high-tech society back to a low-tech agriculture. There is no doubt that increased human populations throughout the globe are extremely destructive to the environment. It simply is appalling how rainforests are cut down, fisheries fished out and water resources overutilized and polluted. But the solutions require more science, not less. Science of course is not the only solution: strong and effective laws are needed to prevent environmentally destructive practices.

I'm proud to work on how plants resist disease. As a consumer, I worry about fungicides and insecticides in the food I and my children eat. The solution? Agriculture based on genetics, rather than chemistry. Delivering crop protection inside the

plant is less polluting than spraying chemicals. Early deployment of transgenic plant technology includes herbicide resistance and insect resistance. Not surprisingly, herbicide manufacturers seek to engineer varieties that resist their herbicides. Herbicides are not all the same: some are persistent and toxic to animals, and others are rapidly inactivated on soil contact and non-toxic. Monsanto's Roundup is a less undesirable herbicide than those it replaces. Soybean farmers in the US have broadly embraced Roundup-ready soybeans, because it makes it easier for them to prevent weeds over-running their crop.

In cotton, insect damage is severe and 60 per cent of all US insecticide applications go on this crop. Very substantial reductions are now being made in cotton insecticide application by engineering insect resistance. With the same technology, high yield increases in maize have also been obtained, with more effective insect control. How can this possibly be a bad thing?

Roundup resistance is accomplished by slightly modifying an enzyme that is present in all plants, and which is a target of the herbicide, to a form that is insensitive to the herbicide. In every other respect the plant is identical. A typical plant carries 20,000 genes, most of which we do not understand the function of. Genetic engineering of plants involves adding two or three genes to this complement of 20,000, and the

genes that are added are extremely well understood. I do not believe the statements we so often hear that "we cannot predict the consequences of our actions". We can predict them very well. We can also predict the consequences of large scale application of agricultural chemicals, and I know which I prefer.

Is this technology significantly different from traditional plant breeding? Yes. Is it worryingly different? No. In fact it's better. It's more precise, it's easier to control, it enables one to take the properties of a plant more directly towards a specific goal.

Contrary to popular belief, there are no tomatoes out there in stores with fish and freeze genes in them. But I would be unfazed if there were. After all, every time we eat fish we eat a lot of fish DNA and it doesn't seem to have done us any harm so far.

When we eat tomatoes we are eating material that carries disease resistance genes that have been bred in from wild relatives of tomato, and perhaps 2,000 other genes unavoidably brought in at the same time that are not the same as in the cultivated plant. This is a much less well controlled exercise, with less easily foreseen consequences, because we don't know what these genes are. Nevertheless, the human population continues onward and upward.

We have always been making substantial changes to the environment through agriculture, and not



every change has been a disaster. For example, it is quite unnatural to grow potatoes, tomatoes and sunflowers in Europe. These are American plants. Doubtless they displaced many local varieties; so what? It is irrational to fetishise transgenic plant technology as a technology where protracted public consultation is required. Why not also have a public enquiry every time a new fungicide or insecticide is released?

There's an irony about the complaints about engineering herbicide resistance. The worst possible outcome about which alarms are sounded is that the herbicide resistance will "get out" and give rise to "superweeds". But without the resistance gene in the crop, the herbicide would not be applied. If it did get out, so that the weeds were also resistant, we would simply revert to the status quo ante, and the herbicide would not be used.

This is surely precisely the outcome that opponents of herbicide use are seeking. It is also precisely

the outcome that the herbicide manufacturers would wish to avoid; the last thing they would wish is for farmers to have to apply their competitors' herbicides for weed control. So they have an incentive to insist on sensible use.

What about consumer choice? I think the realistic answer is that most food products will potentially derive from GM plants, but in the same way as there is an organic shelf in the store, there will be a "non GM" shelf. It is tragic that the organic movement has adopted the view that no GM food can be regarded as organic, since GM plants are the most realistic approach to reducing agricultural applications.

Ultimately, whether GM foods qualify as organic is a theological argument. I, and I think most sensible consumers, will prefer agriculture based on genetics to agriculture based on chemistry. Genes are a lot safer than organophosphates.

Jonathan Jones is a professor at the Sainsbury Laboratory, Norwich.

How to liberate the people of Britain

MY SUBJECT is the way we run our country. The Thatcher years were about the financial empowerment of the citizen through share ownership and other measures, while the present programme of constitutional reform is about matching that with the political empowerment of the citizen.

Britain probably now leads Europe in our modern business structures. But we're far behind almost every other free democracy when it comes to the openness and structure of our politics. It's time to catch up.

We have our first "fair votes" election within a year - for the European Parliament. And this autumn, the Jenkins Commission on the Voting System will recommend a proportional voting system for the House of Commons to be put to the British people in a referendum.

The Government of Britain will never be the same again. The cons is now on those of us who believe in reform to set out why we believe, and to set out the big picture of the kind of society we are trying to build. We should be prepared to

allow communities to experiment with new ideas. Take the idea of elected mayors. I have some doubts about these. But I believe the risks could be worth taking if they lead to more awareness and accountability in local politics. At the local level, we should be prepared to use referendums much more often to give local government wider powers of expenditure on capital projects, subject to certain safeguards, provided they had first obtained the agreement of their voters in a referendum.

But increased limited use of direct democracy at a local level does not mean that we should leave our representative system as it is, because our electoral system does not provide for majority rule as democracy is meant to require. Most of the time, it lets the strongest minority rule. Polling experts predict Labour could win the next election, even if they get less votes than the Tories - just because their votes are in the right places, and the Tories' aren't.

It is very odd. The 21st century voter marches down the



PODIUM

PADDY ASHDOWN

Extract of a speech by the Leader of the Liberal Democrats to the Westminster Forum, London, yesterday

aisle of their new supermarket polling station on election day. What do they see? Twenty brands of washing powder. Thirty flavours of soup. Forty kinds of microwave meal. But at the ballot box only two choices of government.

Think about it. How should a true socialist have voted at the

General Election if Peter Mandelson was their Labour candidate? Or a pro-European Tory in John Redwood's seat? Or an anti-European in Ted Heath's?

There are huge numbers of people in Britain who look at ballot papers and find no candidate to reflect their views. And there are many more who have no candidate to vote for who stands a chance of winning, and therefore feel they have no way of making their vote count.

Does our electoral system ensure all significant minorities are fairly represented? No.

Proportional representation is the politics of inclusion. It's about giving people a chance to vote for what they believe in. Some say PR will mean weak government. John Major, of all people, had the gall to claim this in Parliament last week. PR, he said, leads to governments which are "unstable" and "uncertain", "coalition, compromise and indecision". Even he, said, to governments "hamstrung by small religious parties". Not like his then!

All governments are coalitions. What PR actually leads to is not weaker government, but more considered government, open coalitions, without the opportunity for a government elected with minority support to railroad through proposals which lack broad, popular support. We would not have had either the poll tax or rail privatisation under PR.

And government should concentrate on providing less active, but more effective, administration. Government that steers, but doesn't itself row. I do not believe we need all 100 of the ministers we have now. It is absurd that the number of ministers has increased while the number of civil servants has shrunk. It should be a principle that the number of ministers does not exceed a tenth of the number of MPs. We don't need them.

What does all this add up to? It can be summed up in a single sentence.

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So did I kill Diana?



DAVID AARONOVITCH
It doesn't matter who gets the blame. The real villain is the current epidemic of credulity

Isn't all this Diana conspiracy stuff a hoot, eh? A bit upsetting for the families maybe, but anyone else watching last week's TV programmes dealing with the 1997 crash, including a hilariously acrimonious debate between two rival documentary makers, will have been - at the very least - entertained. And if one of these shows failed to live up to the highest standards of investigative journalism, well so what? The fact is that, for most people, conspiracies are great fun.

Unless, like me, you happen to be part of one. I discovered only last week that I am involved in a pretty big plot, and it's made me feel rather nervous. I happened upon it when - in one of my periodic bouts of mingled vanity and insecurity - I was searching the Internet for mentions of, er, me. And there I was. Mentioned twice in what the authors described as "simply a study of who controls public opinion in Great Britain".

This project, conducted under the auspices of something called Radio Islam asked itself: "Who is behind it all? Who are the people who determine what is watched on television and printed in the newspapers?" and went on, "This is not so easy a study because a great many of the people concerned operate in the shadows. And even in the case of those whose names are known, what is known about their backgrounds and their connections? Very little."

And who are they? Yes, you've got it. "For this reason, very few people in Britain are aware of the huge influence over the mass media exercised by a certain ethnic minority, namely the Jews."

Helpfully Radio Islam sets about the difficult business of naming names. "In the following text, we have highlighted individuals of Jewish origin by setting their names in bold type. Not all of the names in question will seem obviously Jewish; it has been the habit of Jews over the centuries to change their names, adopting those which best blend with the populations of the countries in which they have settled."

[My grandparents, illiterate peasants that they were, presumably made the mistake of adopting the kind of name - Aaronovitch - that was very popular in the East End at the turn of the century. Unfortunately for their sinister plan, it turned out that the East End was full of other Jews. Foiled again!]

"Where persons with non-Jewish names are designated as Jewish, the reader can rest assured that extensive research has established them." And, reassuringly, my colleagues Donald Macintyre and Hamish McRae do not appear on the list. Neither does the proprietor of this paper, Tony O'Reilly - though I have my suspicions. I mean, what would a Jew landing in Cork call himself in order to "blend in"? Netanyahu?

Now, some conspiracies are less popular than others. It's a bit of a fashion thing, and since the Holocaust the taste for Jewish plots has subsided a tad. And this could be because everybody has become a little more aware of the possible link between suggesting that Jewish people were involved in a conspiracy, and the subsequent ill-treatment of the race so accused. But this awareness had taken a very long time.

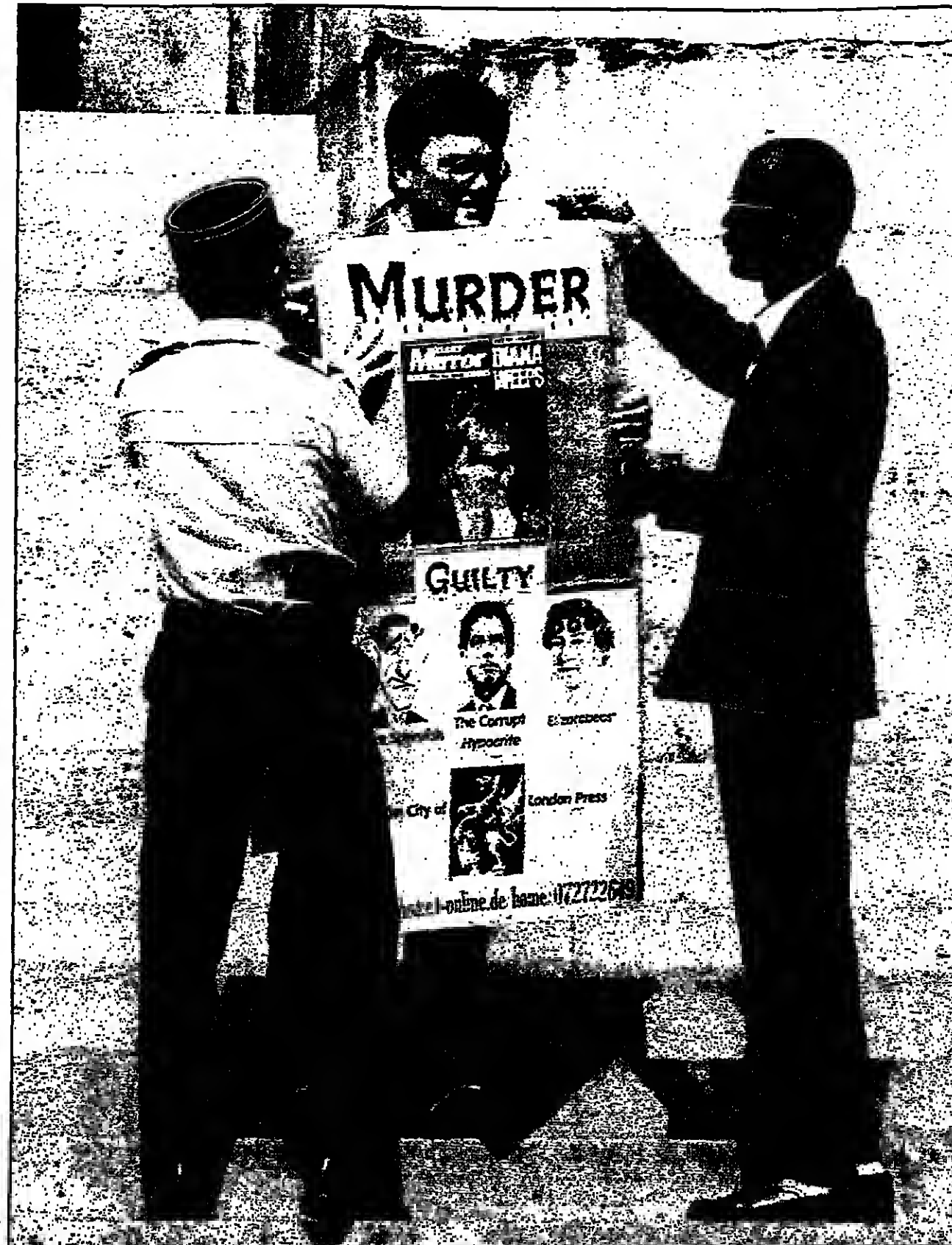
In 1039 a chronicler named Rodulfus (or Ralph the Bald) told the tale of how, 30 years earlier, the Jews of Orleans in France secretly persuaded the Muslim prince of Cairo to pull down the church in Jerusalem containing the Holy Sepulchre. Apparently they had bribed a fugitive serf and sent him to Cairo with letters in Hebrew, written on thin parchment strips hidden inside the iron of his staff, urging them to perform the destruction.

The story got out and, according to Rodulfus: "Once they knew this the Christians throughout the whole world decided unanimously to drive the Jews from their lands and cities. Some were put to the sword, others were drowned in rivers, and many found other deaths ... After this very proper vengeance had been taken, very few of them were to be found in the Roman [i.e. Western] world."

The same thing happened periodically over the next nine centuries, with Jews accused of ganging up with lepers and the Moslem king of Granada to poison wells (thus causing the Black Death), and - a hundred and fifty years ago - of getting together and plotting world domination. The minutes of that supposed meeting were, of course, the infamous Protocols of the Elders of Zion, which are also thoughtfully provided by Radio Islam on its website.

What has all this got to do with Diana? Though *Secrets Behind The Crash* was coy about who might have shone the wholly speculative military flash-gun in the eyes of M Henri Paul on the last night in August, others detect the hand of Mossad, the Israeli secret service. Some Arab journalists actually suggest that the marriage of the world's third greatest Christian icon to a Muslim would have been intolerable to world Jewry. Mr Fayed has not himself blamed the Jews, preferring (as far as I can tell) to implicate a jealous anti-Muslim British establishment.

But it doesn't really matter who gets the blame. The real "connection between Diana and Aaronovitchgate is, I believe, the current epidemic of credulity. Sixty-four per cent of Americans are said to believe that aliens have been contacting people on earth, abducting them and probing their anuses. Books that claim that the world is full of human/alien hybrids sell in their millions. TV programmes lend credibility to weird theories, such as *The Face On Mars* (constructed by alien civilisations and covered up by NASA), to faith healers, to ghosts, to mumbo jumbo of all kinds. The pyramids were built by spacemen, dogs know when their masters die a continent



Police tackle a protester outside the Palace of Justice in Paris this week

Jack Guez

away the Bible has a secret code which predicted the assassination of Rabin - but not this year's Eurovision song contest winner.

There is, as Frederick Crews points out in this week's *New York Review of Books*, a vast amount of money in all this - Whitley Strieber's *Communion* (the abduction classic) got an advance of a million dollars. But it is a fair bet that the publishers and executives, who commission and print this tosh, do not believe any of it themselves. When was the last time you spotted a senior newspaper or TV exec consulting a

faith-healer having his or her house exorcised, or - at a dinner party - opining that Stonehenge was the work of Venusians?

No, they just print it, transmit it, and take the money or enjoy the ratings - over 12 million watched the Diana programme, a huge figure for a "current affairs" show. You can't help wondering whether, had ITV existed in the 11th century, we might not have had a trailer read in that boomy, doomy voice: "Tonight, What shadowy forces may have been behind the destruction of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre last year?

Who was this man, and what was in his staff? Watch *The Secret Behind The Sacrilege* on ITV tonight!"

Tosh begets more tosh. Suspend your disbelief here, and why should you retrieve it there? So a world in which Diana can be murdered by MIs, and a world in which NASA can cover up certain evidence of alien existence, is a world in which I got together with the Chief Rabbi and Mossad to plan this misleading article. And where someone else might just decide that I deserve to be punished for it.

RIGHT OF REPLY

MARY LOUDON



The writer rebuts criticism of performers and audiences at the Hay-on-Wye festival

FOR 10 DAYS at the end of May more than 40,000 descended upon the border town of Hay-on-Wye, home to 1,100. They filled hotels, B&Bs and campsites for miles around; they ate and drank, they walked on the hills and along the Wye; some fished, some cycled, some browsed in local shops. All came to the Festival.

Last Tuesday, Michael Glover wrote in this paper about the foolishness of those who go to Hay, and the vanity of the performers - as he has done repeatedly in recent years, although he and his delightful family have been guests of the festival, staying in beautiful accommodation nearby and driving one of the official cars he professes to despise.

This year's attack was astonishingly vituperative. Writers were "a damnable chat-pack", readers an "ignorant" bunch of pensioners. Let them jump in a lake, he wrote, "and may a thousand Excaliburs be poised to receive their tenderest parts."

The Festival takes place in a jumble of marquees on a school's playing fields. Everyone, performers and audiences alike, eats in the same tent, walks through the same puddles, stays in the same B&Bs, chats in the same sunny courtyard. Never have I seen so level-headed and unpretentious a setting for such a mixed group of people, such scaling down to size of the few egos there are.

As a writer who has been lucky enough to appear five times at the festival, I find audiences well-informed, intelligent and friendly. The Festival is celebrated, enjoyed, loved, by those who run it, patronise it, profit by it or perform at it. How sad for Michael Glover that he still feels unable to join in.

A thoroughbred and his stable

TUESDAY BOOK

DARK HORSES: AN EXPERIENCE OF LITERARY JOURNALISM
KARL MILLER, PICADOR, £16.99

KARL MILLER, editor and critic, is fascinated by Doubles, the title of his study of the literature of duality. Foes accuse him of duplicity; editorial balance can look like that. Several writers he espoused turned on him. He speculates on their reasons in his "editorial autobiography", a sequel to his first volume of memoirs, *Rebecca's Vest*. *Dark Horses* ends with the editor lying on his bed, fiddling with his "coffee-coloured ivory netsuke", reflecting on life, literature, football, the Labour victory, his health. He musters a muted chuckle: he is Caliban, at last alone on the island. The magic has almost worn off.

But not quite. This book strives to re-create something of the excitement and peril of being an editor and teacher when the contours of culture - literary, sexual, political - altered. He dedicates it "to the writers I have published": a creditable stable, including Brigit Brophy, Conor Cruise O'Brien, Kingsley Amis, VS Naipaul, Seamus Heaney, Tom Paulin, Hugo Williams, Craig Raine. Miller as editor made a difference. But it's hard to put a finger on what that difference is. It has to do with standards, critical debate and engagement, forging a generation; and with the promotion of a kind of no-nonsense philistinism, hostile to Modernism ("still news, when I was a boy. It is now history"). Frances Partridge remarked of an evening with him, "it was like a night out with stockbrokers." He doesn't like stockbrokers, or Bloomsbury for that matter. He was a young man in a

hurry, abandoning Leavis and Cambridge, and going over to the enemy: London, the media. The young man survives, sporting the same chips on his shoulder. He says he is vain, unprogrammatic, with a republican, Scottish, Labourite bent. Time and teaching have made him less iconoclastic than he was at *The Spectator*, the *New Statesman*, and - dramatically - at *The Listener*. Miller traces his editorial antecedents back to 1802, to Francis Jeffrey's *Edinburgh Review*. Like Jeffrey he's a severe Scot, pitting the Enlightenment against the Establishment, agnostic before the institutions of culture.

Even in retirement, Miller remains reckonable. As a young writer, I knew he was the editor to send things to. As a middle-aged editor I regard him as a star to take bearings from, if not to steer by. What makes his memoir uneasy reading is his double standard. He forgives Amis, Naipaul and O'Brien for opinions he condemns in writers in whom he has a smaller investment. The stockbroker again.

The author of *Dark Horses* comes over as a malcontent. He allows himself one epiphany: "that night in Ireland" when he attended a cello with Seamus Heaney in Belfast, with the Irish fiddle, elbow-pipes, recitations and

singing. "The house was filled with air that hurt not," says Caliban, "and it seemed like holy ground, though far from clerical ground, or holy-war ground." How far? A gathering of friends - Republican friends - in Belfast in the Seventies. Miller acknowledges himself as the occasion's "sentimental monoglot over-interpreter", but he won't let go his abiding

joy at this inclusion. He talks of camaraderie but celebrates outsiders. Duality again. Martin Bell, who contributed to the *London Review of Books*, has moved from "balanced, dispassionate, objective" journalism to a "journalism of attachment". Miller seems to concur. A practical man, he knows that responsible criticism and journalism



Seamus Heaney: camaraderie with outsiders

clear spaces for creative, as for political, action. The dynamics of working for his four journals propelled him towards "attachment", especially in the Thatcher years, with the founding of the *London Review of Books*, Miller's (Mary Kay Wilmer's, and Susannah Clapp's) indispensable legacy. In Miller's journals, the sense of deliberate design was compelling. LRB controversies had the delicious sense of having been choreographed. Storm clouds were gathered by a deliberate hand; the thunder and lightning might go on for weeks.

Dark Horses is cobbled together. Miller cannibalises his Northcliffe lectures, introductions and journalism. It is no doubt good ecology to recycle, but journalism and lectures are different in kind from book-writing, unless the book is a mere collection of journalism. The pace of *Dark Horses* is uneven. Miller wants to reflect his multifarious concerns - Eric Cantona, Richard Rorty, Richard Crossman, Fanny Hill. He should have started from memory, making those risky juxtapositions which were the news of Modernism.

Almost-revelations tease us. It's still not clear why Miller left the LRB. He sets out bare facts but doesn't flesh them out. I wish he had; it was an important creation and departure. Perhaps we'll never hear the full story from the horse's mouth. We leave him on his bed, netsuke in hand, gazing out of the window, and beyond it, to the deep blue air ...

MICHAEL SCHMIDT

TUESDAY POEM

FRESH SIGHS FOR SALE
BY ALAIN BOSQUET
TRANSLATED BY SAMUEL BECKETT

Fresh sighs for sale!
Prime doubts a penny!
Scowls going at a loss!
When I'm sold out I'll go far from me and these among
be born again:
a mango warm from the bough,
a more than feline kiss,
a few objects without name.
Fresh hopes for sale!
Prime sooth a penny!
Smiles going at a loss!
Bargains, bargains in and out of reason!

Our poems today and tomorrow come from the latest batch of Poems on the Underground. The 15 poems by major modern European poets, which will appear in London tube carriages throughout June and July, mark the British presidency of the European Union.

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John Titchell

JOHN TITCHELL was a fine draughtsman. A simple approach, very straight, intense observation, bent on finding out what he needed for his work. He worked rather slowly and methodically. There was an obsessiveness in his work, no flourishes. The drawings were tightly structured and strongly designed and composed, constantly looking, sifting and selecting.

His sequence paintings were original like the man. He would make four versions of the same subject from morning to sunset or through the seasons and arriving on site as early as 6 o'clock in the morning. I know of nobody who used colour in his manner. Completely

He creates a parallel which embodies both a reality and an idea, like a poem about light

unphotographic, his work translates and sifts his visual experience. He creates a parallel which embodies both a reality and an idea, like a poem about light.

Titchell was affectionately known to all as Titch, but was in fact rather tall. He was born in Kent in 1926. He served in the Army during the Second World War and saw something of Germany and India. He talked a lot about India and always wanted to return. He said the experience profoundly affected his attitude towards colour and he was amazed by the light and its brilliance. He liked the Indian people and developed a taste for Indian food and he would travel miles to a good restaurant.

My wife and I visited Titch on the day he died. We had a wonderful afternoon visiting Egerton House,

where it had all begun in a sense – a dilapidated old Georgian house in the Kent countryside rented in turn by a number of artists, including Titch (in the late Fifties), Campbell Bruce and Jacqueline Stanley, and myself; we returned afterwards to Titch and Audrey's for cake and tea. There was no indication of what was about to happen, as he looked so well. We were planning a visit to Somerset. During our conversation he was reminiscing about Sidcup Art School where our friendship began.

Sidcup was an experience which he maintained changed his life. The Principal, J. Robinson (Robbo to his students), made a lasting impression on Titch by his calm, patient manner to young pupils of 14 years of age. He also met a young Ruskin Spear and Robin Guthrie who Titch said was a great, both excellent draughtsmen and painters.

Under their guidance he gained entrance to the Royal College of Art, where he was taught by Rodrigo Moynihan, Carol Weight, John Minton, Colin Hayes, Robert Buhler and others, all professional painters. His appetite for art was insatiable. Music, literature, films, painting and sculpture – where better a place to encourage and nurture this appetite than art school.

I believe that Titch in turn was repaying a debt for the treatment he had received at those schools, for when he became a teacher himself he was to become one of the finest and most conscientious of all his generation. He taught in a number of art schools, principally Hornsey, Walthamstow and Maidstone.



Titchell at home in Kent: 'It would stop me working if I had a cushy number'

not in meetings and on committees. In the late 1950s, he and his family moved to the countryside and in the early 1960s found their home in Pluckley, where his wife Audrey started to plan and build the garden which became such a central and important theme in Titch's work. It is a beautiful garden, just as exciting on a small scale as Great Dixter or Sissinghurst. The garden, the Kent landscape and the coastline around Folkestone and Hythe were his inspiration.

He was dogged by ill-health for the last 20 years of his life, suffering heart problems. These he refused to recognise and continued to work as regularly and as hard as ever before. Sadly in his life he did not receive the recognition he deserved.

He loved creative people and his friends included musicians, writers, composers, painters, sculptors and poets and people from every walk of life. All of them were captivated by his charm, his work and his stories, for he was one of the greatest of yarn spinners, some true, some invented on the spur of the moment. He occasionally struck a lyric vein that became poetic. For exam-

ple his description of the tea tent at Canterbury Cricket Week – "the clinking of bat to ball and the steam of the tea urns and the wheelchairs and the hats. The polite applause mingled with the gentle clacking of false teeth filled the air." Such imagination and observation.

He was a great family man, enjoying his grandchildren, and indeed all children, since he was infinitely patient and he never lost his touch with the young. He gave the greatest attention to his students and their problems, possessing that rare grace of seeming to have all the time in the

world to listen and to advise. He loved to argue and converse on any subject, to be devil's advocate. He would argue against his own argument in order to prolong a discussion.

We all in our lives have had some good and some bad luck. Like many, I am sure, I thought it my good luck to be friends with John Titchell.

Fred Cumming

John Titchell, painter: born Crayford, Kent 6 August 1926; ARA 1986, RA 1991; married 1947 Audrey Ward (one son, one daughter); died Pluckley, Kent 11 May 1998.

Geraint Jones

IN THE YEARS following the Second World War, Geraint Jones explored the world of baroque music and was influential in a return to an "authentic" performing style. Despite a sometimes hostile reaction from the press, he persevered, and through several series of concerts as both conductor and keyboard player, he demonstrated the validity of these musical ideas.

The son of a minister, Jones studied at Caterham School, in Surrey, and was subsequently a Sturges Bennett Scholar at the Royal Academy of Music. He volunteered for service in the Second World War but was rejected on the grounds of poor health. Determined to "do his bit", Jones made his debut as a harpsichordist in 1940 at one of Dame Myra Hess's National Gallery concerts, where he continued to appear on a regular basis until 1944. He soon became known as a virtuoso.

Immediately after the war, Jones launched into a series of concerts performing the complete organ works of Bach in London. This was a composer to whom he returned a decade later at the Festival Hall, but to a mixed reaction.

One reviewer said: "It is in resource and in the handling of Allegros that Mr Jones's performances excel." Ten days later, the same newspaper (the reviewers were then anonymous) wrote: "As a player, Mr Jones has a clean technique and an austere taste; his playing of the big Prelude in E flat could only be described as antiseptic." The epithet was not as unjustified as it might sound: while intellectually brilliant, Jones's playing was not renowned for its emotional content. Undeterred, Jones embarked on an annual series of organ recitals at the South Bank which ran for more than 30 years.

Already married and divorced by the end of the Forties, Jones undertook many concerts for violin and harpsichord with his second wife, the violinist Winifred Roberts. Together they toured the world performing neglected music of the baroque era.

Winifred subsequently became the leader of the Geraint Jones Orchestra, which evolved from a series of acclaimed performances of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* with the soprano Kirsten Flagstad and the baritone Thomas Hemsley, conducted by Jones, in the opening season of Bernard Miles's Mermaid Theatre in 1951.

The now historic recording of this *Dido and Aeneas* – which included Elisabeth Schwarzkopf – was produced by Walter Legge for HMV and was the first of many recordings featuring music by Bach, Handel and Mozart. Among them was the Italian version of Gluck's *Alceste*, also with Flagstad. Jones's discs won the Grand Prix du Disque in 1959 and 1966.

By 1969 Jones was hitting relatively modern music. With the pianist Stephen Bishop he championed all of Mozart's piano concertos in a 15-month series at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London. At the end of the final concert in April 1970, the artists returned to the stage to acknowledge the applause and by way of an encore repeated the slow movement of the C major Concerto (K457) but with Jones at the keyboard and Bishop on the rostrum.

During the 1960s and 1970s Jones came to be seen as more of a musical statesman. He was artistic director of several festivals, including the Lake District Festival which he founded in 1960, Salisbury Festival (1973-77) and Manchester Festival (1977-87). But it was to the Kirckman Concert Society, founded in 1963 to provide a platform for outstanding young artists, that he devoted much of his time and energy.

His 35 years as director of the Kirckman Concert Society marked him out as a man with a great knack for spotting talented youngsters. Stephen Bishop was just one of Jones's protégés. The singer Mitsuko Shirai and the pianist Hartmut Höll, and more recently the Emperor String Quartet, were other beneficiaries of the society's largesse.

Away from the platform Jones was very highly thought of as an organ designer. Like Bach he was a connoisseur not just of music but of instruments, and he was involved in the construction of organs at the Royal Northern College of Music, St Andrew's University, the Royal Academy of Music and the Academy for Performing Arts in Hong Kong.

A true Welshman in manner and character, Jones forever had a twinkle in his eye and had a mischievous sense of humour. He adored smart cars, pretty women, and parties, where he was a shrewd people watcher. He retained a large and assorted circle of friends until the very end of his life.

Tim Bullimore

Geraint Iwan Jones, musician: born Porth, Glamorgan 16 May 1917; FRAM 1954; Professor, Royal Academy of Music 1961-88; married 1940 M.A. Kemp (one daughter), 1949 Winifred Roberts; died London 3 May 1998.

Professor Alan Milne

ALAN MILNE was a distinguished political philosopher whose achievement is all the more remarkable because he was totally blinded in military action during the Second World War before he had even begun university study.

Most university teachers of political theory are historians who expound the work of great thinkers of the past. Just a few are genuine philosophers who take a critical approach to the classical texts and add their own contribution to the subject. Alan Milne was one of that select band.

He was born at Marlow in 1922 and educated at the Dragon School, Oxford, and Uppingham. He enlisted in the Army immediately on leaving school in 1939 and served first in the Royal Artillery and then in the Commandos. It was while leading a bridgehead commando in Germany in the spring of 1945 that he was hit by a sniper's bullet which blinded him.

After receiving training for the blind at St Dunstan's, he became a student in the Department of Government at the London School of Economics. He was of course unable to read for himself and there were no audiobooks in those days, but a number of his fellow students took it in turn to read books and articles to him. He married one of those devoted readers, Anita Littlestone,

while still a student. He completed the undergraduate course in 1949 and went on to research for a PhD, which he gained in 1952. He was then awarded a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship to continue his studies for two years in the United States.

After a brief period back at the LSE as an Assistant Lecturer, he was appointed in 1956 to a Lectureship in Social Philosophy at Queen's University, Belfast. Since the post was firmly in philosophy rather than social studies or politics, he felt it was incumbent upon him to become thoroughly proficient in philosophy, which he did off his own bat.

He found himself attracted to post-Hegelian Idealism, which was regarded by most of the Oxford philosophers as having been refuted by G.E. Moore and the disciples of J. Cook Wilson. A notable exception, however, was R.G. Collingwood, who continued the Idealist tradition in his own inimitable way and who came to have a considerable influence on Milne's development.

At Belfast Milne's success as a teacher and author led to his being promoted to a Readership and then to a personal Chair. He left in 1975 for Durham, where he held the Chair of Political Theory and Institutions until his retirement in 1987. His wife Anita died of cancer in 1985, having been for all those years his

"indispensable helpmeet", to quote the words of her successor, Susan Elkann, who had likewise been one of Milne's readers in his student days, and whom he married in 1986. His tribute to her in his last book shows that she too was an indispensable companion.

Milne's first book, *The Social Philosophy of English Idealism* (1962), was something of a pathbreaker in inducing students of political thought to go back to F.H. Bradley, T.H. Green, and Bernard Bosanquet, and to attend also to the American Idealist Josiah Royce. In later years Milne came to see that the moral and political thought of the three English writers was flawed, although he continued to feel a debt to Green.

The best-known of Milne's books is *Freedom and Rights* (1968), in which he goes against the stream of fashion which understands freedom as simply a negative concept (the absence of restraint). Milne, like the Idealists, wanted to add a positive idea, but where they talked of self-realisation he used the more intelligible notion of self-determination. His discussion of rights drew some valuable distinctions and was followed up by two further books, *The Right to Dissent* (1983) and *Human Rights and Human Diversity* (1986).

He continued to write after retirement and, a couple of months

ago, published *Ethical Frontiers of the State*. Margaret Thatcher's claim of having "rolled back the frontiers of the state" prompted Milne to marshal his thoughts on the question of what should be the frontiers of the state. They are given within the framework of a systematic moral philosophy and range beyond ethical questions to include helpful analysis of many political concepts. He planned a sequel and had completed the greater part of it, which will be edited for publication.

Unlike his admired Green and Bosanquet, Milne expressed his thought in beautifully clear language, which made him an excellent teacher. He was universally liked for his friendly, sanguine temperament and his sympathetic care for his students.

D. D. Raphael

Alan John Mitchell Milne, social and political philosopher: born Marlow, Buckinghamshire 30 April 1922; Lecturer, Queen's University, Belfast 1956-65, Reader 1965-73, Professor of Social Philosophy 1973-75; Professor of Political Theory and Institutions, Durham University 1975-87; married first Pauline Wood (two sons, two daughters; marriage dissolved 1949), 1949 Anita Littlestone (died 1985; two sons, one daughter), 1986 Susan Elkann; died Oxford 24 May 1998.



Richard Jaeger

RICHARD JAEGER was known as a forthright arch-conservative Bavarian CSU politician, a man of principle who did not compromise, and a politician to his fingertips. He was prominent among the first generation of post-war German politicians. Elected to the first Bundestag in 1949, he remained a member until 1980.

The Bavarian Party (BP), for decades a significant force in Bavaria, sought to embarrass Jaeger by attempting to make political capital out of the fact that he was born in Berlin rather than Bavaria. However, both his parents were Bavarians and he came from a long line of southern Germans. His father, Dr Heinz Jaeger, was director of the Munich city insurance office. There his son Richard was born. Later the family returned to Munich where Richard attended the prestigious Maximilian Gymnasium.



On matriculation Jaeger studied law at the universities of Munich, Berlin and Bonn. As a Catholic he remained loyal to the Catholic youth organisation and the Catholic students' body when others were de-

flecting to the Hitler Youth and National Socialist Students Corps. He qualified as a lawyer in 1939 only to find himself in the army for the duration of the war.

Remarkably, his war service, as artillery NCO in the West and in Russia, did not prevent him from continuing his legal studies. After a brief incarceration as a prisoner of war, he returned to Munich, gaining his doctorate at Munich University in 1947. He joined the new Christian Social Union (CSU), the Bavarian wing of Christian Democracy, in 1948 and gained entry into the Bavarian civil service. He served as mayor of Eichstätt 1948-49.

From the start of his parliamentary career Jaeger made his mark as a robust exponent of Bavarian interests and conservative values. Among the causes he championed was the re-introduction of the death penalty, more rigorous law enforcement,

tougher sentences for sex offenders and opposition to pornography.

Despite his popularity in conservative circles, his legal mind and his relative youth, Jaeger did not get promotion under Chancellor Adenauer. Perhaps one of his problems was rivalry with Franz Josef Strauss. Both were Bavarians, both had attended the same school and both had served in the artillery. Two years younger, Strauss had been promoted to officer while Jaeger ended his military career as an officer cadet.

One would have expected that Jaeger's more subdued style and temperament would have found favour with Adenauer rather than that of the more flamboyant Strauss. Jaeger had to be contented with the consolation prize of election as one of the five vice-presidents of the Bundestag, an office he held from 1963 to 1965 and 1967 to 1976.

He also served as chairman of the powerful parliamentary defence committee, 1963-65, and as such he had considerable influence on the development of West Germany's new armed forces established in 1955. He was strongly in favour of political control of the armed forces. In this he both supported the Defence Minister, Franz Josef Strauss, and later Kai-Uwe von Hassel, against the military, and sought more power for his committee. He also argued that the German forces should be equipped with nuclear weapons.

In 1963 Konrad Adenauer retired and was replaced as head of government by Ludwig Erhard. Jaeger had hopes of a ministry. Firstly, Erhard was also a Bavarian. Secondly, Jaeger supported him on his pro-American stance as against the "Gaullist" position of many Bavarian politicians. Jaeger had

served for many years as President of the German Atlantic Society.

His reward came in 1965 when Erhard formed his second ministry and appointed Jaeger Minister of Justice. This was a hollow victory for Jaeger. Erhard was brought down in December 1966. He was not included in Kurt Georg Kiesinger's grand coalition of Christian Democrats and Social Democrats. His replacement was the very liberal Social Democrat Gustav Heinemann. Richard Jaeger's last major post came as a surprise when in 1984 he was appointed head of the West German delegation to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

David Childs

Richard Jaeger, politician: born Berlin 16 February 1913; married (one son, five daughters); died 14 May 1998.

Phil Hartman

WHEN the actors providing the voices of *The Simpsons* cartoon series threatened to go on strike earlier this year unless they got hefty pay rises, the news made headlines around the English-speaking world. It gave viewers the chance to put faces to the names they regularly see on the credit sequences and to realise how versatile those performers can be, since they often lend their talents to several characters.

Alongside Nancy Cartwright (Bart Simpson), but also his friend Nelson Muntz and Todd Flanders, the neighbour's kid, Dan Castellaneta (Homer Grampa Simpson, Krusty the Clown, Barney Gumble, Mayor Quimby etc), Hank Azaria (Moe the bartender, Apu the convenience store owner, Chief Wiggum, Superintendent Chalmers and 25 others) and Harry Shearer (Mr Burns, his sycophantic assistant Smithers, Homer's neighbour Ned Flanders, Principal Skinner, newscaster Kent Brockman and a host of others) and the many celebrity guests (including Elizabeth Taylor as Maggie, and U2 in the 200th episode), Phil

tained schoolfriends with his impersonations of John Wayne, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, but wouldn't make a career out of this skill until the mid-Seventies. He originally studied graphic design and, when he wasn't working in advertising, created artwork for Crosby, Stills & Nash and other rock acts of the day.

Theatre workshops offered an outlet and a release for Hartman's acting abilities, and in 1975, he joined the Groundlings, a Los Angeles comedy troupe specialising in improvised sketches. While he was part of that ensemble, he met Paul Renkens, a comedian who would soon fashion a new image for himself as the colourful and outrageous Pee-wee Herman. The two collaborated on the script for the 1985 film *Pee-wee's Big Adventure*, in which Hartman guested alongside his friend.

The following year, Hartman appeared in *Three Amigos* (featuring Steve Martin, Chevy Chase and Martin Short) and joined the cast of NBC's *Saturday Night Live*, American television's number one satirical comedy show. The show had already provided the springboard for talents like John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd and Chevy Chase, who had been part of its repertory cast.

Over the following eight seasons, Hartman's uncanny ability for mimicry came to the fore as he lampooned everyone from Ronald Reagan to Frank Sinatra via Jack Nicholson and the television evangelist Jimmy Swaggart. The election of Bill Clinton to the presidency in 1992 provided Hartman with another chance to shine. His Clinton, complete with sincere, southern vocal inflections, proved so spot-on that the president had no recourse but to congratulate his impersonator. Coincidentally, both played the saxophone too.

From that point, Hartman's career really took off. "I started doing Clinton and then I was on the cover of *TV Guide* (America's best-selling listings magazine). I became a household name," he later reflected. "I didn't have to look for work any more. Work came to me. Like a tremendous amount of commercials and voice-overs."

The smarmy delivery of a Hartman character had often been used to introduce or narrate sketches on *Saturday Night Live*. In 1990, while fleshing out *The Simpsons*' rich array of cultural references, high- and low-brow, the show's creator Matt Groening decided to hire Hartman to



become the voice of has-been actor Troy McClure.

Having quit *Saturday Night Live* in 1994, Hartman, who had become a US citizen, could concentrate on *The Simpsons* and various small but lucrative appearances in movies such as *Coneheads* (1993, with Dan Aykroyd), *House Guest* (1995), *Sgt. Bilko* (1996, with Steve Martin) and *Jingle All the Way* (the poorly received Arnold Schwarzenegger vehicle of Christmas 1996).

By then NBC had found a suitable vehicle for Hartman's talents with the launch of the sitcom *Northern Exposure*, in which he played Bill McNeal, a self-important radio announcer. The series

never quite delivered the ratings the US channel expected and has not been shown on British television, possibly because the format closely resembles Channel 4's newsroom series *Drop the Dead Donkey*. Ostensibly an ensemble piece, *Northern Exposure* nevertheless often revolved around Hartman's character and may now be cancelled following his death.

Pierre Perrone
Philip Edward Hartmann (Hartman), actor, comedian, impersonator, scriptwriter: born Brantford, Ontario 24 September 1948; three times married (one son, one daughter); died Los Angeles, California 28 May 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

Why did Elizabeth I never marry?



Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603)

"I WILL never marry," the future Elizabeth I declared at the age of eight, and, to the consternation of her subjects, the Great Queen kept her word. She even promoted the cult of virginity that was to form the substance of her legend.

For four centuries, historians have speculated as to why Elizabeth never married. In her own day, her decision to remain single was considered absurd and dangerous. A queen needed a husband to make political decisions for her and to organise and lead her military campaigns. More important, she needed male heirs to avoid a civil war between rival claimants after her death.

There was no shortage of suitors for the Queen's hand, both English courtiers and foreign princes, and it was confidently expected for the best part of 30 years that Elizabeth would eventually marry one of them. Indeed, although she insisted that she preferred the single state, she kept these suitors in a state of permanent expectation and even lust. This prevarication was a deliberate policy on the Queen's part, since by keeping foreign princes in hope, sometimes for a decade, she kept them friendly when they might otherwise have made war on her realm.

There were, indeed, sound political reasons for her avoiding marriage. The disastrous union of her sister Mary I to Philip II of Spain had imposed an unwelcome foreign influence upon English politics. The English were generally prejudiced against the Queen taking a foreign husband, particularly a Catholic one. Yet if she married an English peer, jealousy might lead to the formation of dangerous factions at court.

There were other, deeper reasons for Elizabeth's reluctance to marry, chief of which, I believe, was her fear of losing her autonomy as Queen. In the 16th century, a sovereign was regarded as holding supreme dominion over the state, while a husband was deemed to hold supreme dominion over his wife. Elizabeth knew that marriage and motherhood would bring some erosion of her power. "I will have but one mistress here and no master," she told the Earl of Leicester, the man she loved more than any other and to whom she was close for over 30 years.

She once pointed out that marriage seemed too uncertain a state for her. She

had seen several unions in her immediate family break down, including that of her own parents.

Some writers, on the flimsiest of evidence, have argued that Elizabeth was frightened or incapable of the sex act, but it is more likely that she feared childbirth. Two of her stepmothers, her grandmother and several acquaintances had died in childbirth. Moreover, in pregnancy she was bound to lose her grip on affairs.

Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII, had had her mother, Anne Boleyn, executed for treason and adultery; her stepmother Catherine Howard later suffered the same fate. When Elizabeth was 14 she was all but seduced by Admiral Thomas Seymour, who also went to the block within a year for treason. Witnessing these terrible events at an early age, it has been argued, may have put Elizabeth off marriage.

Elizabeth had to decide her priorities. There was no contraception in those days, and to risk an illicit pregnancy would have jeopardised her already insecure throne. A woman's reputation was paramount, especially that of a queen who bore the title Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Marriage or celibacy were her only choices. Elizabeth was far too intelligent to compromise herself. The choice she made was courageous and revolutionary, and, in the long run, the right one for England.

• From Alison Weir's book *Elizabeth the Queen* (Cape, £18.99)

GAZETTE

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Trustee, attends a meeting of the trustees at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10; as Patron, unveils a plaque to commemorate the founding of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People, London W1; and, as Founder and Chairman of the International Association, gives a reception at Buckingham Palace. The Queen Mother visits Queens' College, Cambridge, to mark the 550th anniversary of its foundation. The Duke of York takes the salute at the Royal Artillery Sunset Ceremony on Horseguards Parade, London SW1. The Princess Royal, President, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, visits Gloucestershire Carers Centre and attends a reception at the Parliament Rooms, Gloucester; opens the new premises of the Haven Trust, Gloucester; and, as President, riding for the Disabled Association, attends the Maisemore Group 25th Anniversary event at Maisemore Riding Centre, Maisemore, Gloucestershire. The Duke of Gloucester, Commissioner, English Heritage, attends the 1998 Annual Commissioner's Tour.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial Services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Tony Britton, actor, 74; Mr Edgar Evans, actor, 86; Mr Michael J. Fox, actor, 37; Mr Geraint Gruffydd, former Director, University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, 70; Mr Jeremy Hardie, chairman, WFL Smith, 60; Sir Peter Healy, former chairman, Commonwealth Games Federation, 74; Mr Douglas Henderson MP Minister for Europe, 49; Lord Islay, former MP, 73; Mr Derek Hunt, chairman, MFI Furniture Group, 59; Sir Roger Hurn, chairman, Smiths Industries, 60; Miss Sheila Keith, actress, 78; Mr Peter Kilfoyle MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Office of Public Services, 52; Sir Nicholas Lloyd, former Editor of the Daily Express, 56; Mr Robert McNamara, former US Secretary of Defence, 82; Mr Michael Geoffrey Musson, former Adjutant-General, 88; Mrs June O'Dell, director, Aylesbury Vale Community Healthcare NHS Trust, 69; Mr David Ridgway, ambassador to Bolivia, 57; Mr Charles Saatchi, advertising executive, 56; Mr Peter Sanders, former chief executive, Commission for Racial Equality, 60; Sir Douglas Smith, former chairman, A.C.A.S., 66; Vice-Admiral Sir Patrick Symons, former Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic's Representative in Europe, 65; Mr David Troughton, actor, 48; Col John Williams-Wynne, Constable of Harlech Castle, 90; Mr Peter Wilson, chairman and chief executive, Gallaher Group, 57.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Leopold I, Holy Roman emperor, 1640; Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia, 1672; Andrew Ramsay, writer, 1686; Georg Friedrich Grotendorf, classical and cuneiform scholar, 1775; George Stephenson, locomotive

designer, 1781; John Howard Payne, actor, playwright and consul, 1791; Carl Otto Ehrenfried Nicolai, conductor and composer, 1810; Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, physician, 1836; Lady Anne Isabella Ritchie, writer, daughter of W.M. Thackeray, 1837; Walter Woodson Grossmith, comedian and writer, 1853; Sir Henry Hallett Dale, neurophysiologist, 1875; E.M. Delafeld (Edmée Elizabeth Monica de la Pasture), novelist, 1890; Cole Albert Porter, composer and lyricist, 1893; Robert Cummings (Charles Clarence Robert Orville Main Cummings), actor, 1908; Deaths: Jan van Eyck, painter, buried 1441; William Lilly, astrologer and publisher of almanacs, 1681; Pope Gregory XVI, 1846; George Fynes Rainsford James, novelist, 1860; Charles John Huffham Dickens, novelist, 1870; Sir Walter Besant, writer and philanthropist, 1901; Edward Moran, artist, 1901; Ugo Betti, playwright and judge, 1953; William Maxwell Aitken, first Baron Beaverbrook, 1964; Dame Sybil Thornehill, actress, 1976; Alexis Smith (Gladys Smith), actress, 1994. On this day: the first Book of Common Prayer was issued to all dioceses in the Church of England, 1549; the French defeated the Austrians at the Battle of Montebello Casteggio, 1800; Alsace-Lorraine was annexed to Germany, 1871; the US heavyweight boxer James J. Jeffries beat Bob Fitzsimmons, of Great Britain, in New York, 1896; the London Symphony Orchestra gave its first concert, 1904; Charles Kingsford-Smith and Charles Uim became the first to pilot an aircraft across the Pacific (California to Brisbane, Australia), 1928; the Norwegian forces surrendered to Germany, 1940; the USS George Washington, the first ballistic-missile submarine was launched, 1959; in Britain, the proceedings of the

House of Commons were broadcast live for the first time, 1975. Today is the Feast Day of St Columba of Iona, St Ephraem, St Pelagia of Antioch, Saints Primus and Felician, St Richard of Andria and St Vincent of Agen.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Marion Carlisle, "Match of the Day (II): Botticelli, Venus and Mars", 1pm.
Tate Gallery: Michael Rickards, "Warhol and Emotion: boredom", 1pm.
British Museum: Nicole Douek, "Jewels of the Pharaoh", 11.30am.
National Portrait Gallery: Rebecca Lyons, "G.F. Watts and Ellen Terry: Pymonion and the image", 1.10pm.
Wallace Collection, London W1: Miranda Neave, "Aspects of French Furniture", 1pm.

DINNERS

Inter-Parliamentary Union - British Group
Mr David Marshall MP Chairman, Inter-Parliamentary Union - British Group, hosted a dinner yesterday at One Great George St, London SW1, in honour of a Parliamentary Delegation from the People's Republic of China led by Mr Jiang Chunyun, Vice-Chairman, Standing Committee, National People's Congress.

Lejeune Clinic
Mr Dominic Grieve MP was the host at the launch of the Help Campaign for the Lejeune Clinic held yesterday in the Jubilee Room at the House of Commons, London SW1. The clinic, for the care and assessment of Down's children, was launched two years ago at the Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, London NW3. Among the guests were:

Lady Benyon; Lady Fisher; Dr S.M. Altin; Mr Simon Hughes MP; Dr James Le Fanu; Miss Ann Widdowson MP; Miss Barbara Lejeune, Chairman of Trustees; Lejeune Clinic; Dr Peter Dobson, Vice-Chairman of Trustees; Dr Margaret White, Vice-Chairman of

Trustees; Mrs Elizabeth McKean, Trustee; Mrs Corinne Babin, Director, Jerome Lejeune Medical Centre, Paris; Dr A. Cole; Dr R. Henshaw; Dr F. Takewick; Mr John Maples MP.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Gary Astley, Prior, Society of the Sacred Mission, Vauxhall Road London; to be NSM Curate, Angel Town St John the Evangelist (Sunderbury). Canon Peter Bailey, Priest-in-Charge, Bishopston, and Bristol St Andrew with St Nicholas (Bristol); to be Team Rector; Bishopston and St Andrews (same diocese). Canon David Barrie, with permission to officiate (Gloucester); to be part-time Curate, Christchurch Hospital (same diocese). The Rev Nigel Begg, Curate, Hilson St John the Evangelist and St Luke (Gloucester); to be Team Vicar, Moor Allerton with special responsibility for Awesbury St Barnabas (same diocese). The Rev Dr Ian Carter, Vicar, Hindley St Peter (Manchester); to be Chaplain, Royal Oldham Hospital (same diocese). The Rev Mary Cranmer, Deputy Director, Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme (Gloucester); to be Team Vicar, The Perway Team Ministry (same diocese). The Rev David Crosby, Assistant Curate, West Bromwich St Andrew and Christ Church (Lichfield); to be Rector, Church of the Holy Trinity, Lichfield (same diocese). The Rev Christopher Keady, Curate, Great Crosby St Faith (Liverpool); to be Assistant Curate (Team Vicar, Liscard) (same diocese). The Rev Brian McDonough, Curate, Blackburn St Gabriel (Blackburn); to be Diocesan Youth Officer (same diocese). The Rev Bill Moore, Curate, Hebe Most (Birmingham); to be Vicar, Dordill St Paul (same diocese). The Rev Duncan Weaver, Curate, Watford St Mary GS (Herts); to be Team Vicar, Gorse Valley (Salisbury). The Rev Nicholas Wright, Team Vicar, Worcester South East with special responsibility for Holy Trinity with St Matthew (Worcester); to be Vicar, Imberrow with Cooilish and Kingston with Dornston (same diocese).

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Ian Alexander QC, to be an Ordinary Bench of Lincoln's Inn.
Miss Caroline Banks, to be Director of Consumer Affairs, Office of Fair Trading.

Proceedings were not an abuse of process

TUESDAY LAW REPORT 9 JUNE 1998

Re Barings plc; Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Baker and others
Chancery Division (Mr Justice Jonathan Parker) 5 June 1998

DISQUALIFICATION proceedings under section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 would not be stayed as abuse of process on the basis that disciplinary proceedings had previously been taken against the respondent by the Securities and Futures Authority.

An application by Ronald Allwyn Baker for a stay of proceedings brought against him under section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 was refused.

On 21 February 1997 the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry issued proceedings against 10 former directors of companies in the Barings Group, including Mr Baker, seeking disqualification orders under section 6 of the 1986 Act. The proceedings arose out of the collapse of the Barings Group in 1995.

Mr Baker had been appointed a director of Baring Brothers & Co Ltd in April 1992, and had been registered as a director by the Securities and Futures Authority ("SFA"). In July 1995 the SFA suspended Mr Baker's registration, and in March 1996 instituted proceedings against him before the SFA Disciplinary Tribunal.

At an early stage of the disqualification hearing, an application was made on behalf of Mr Baker for a stay of the proceedings against him, on the ground that to prosecute those proceedings would infringe the principle of double jeopardy, since he had already successfully resisted the proceedings brought by the SFA in which the same, or substantially the same, charges had been made against him.

Charles Hollander and Josiah Dillon (Fox Williams) for Mr Baker; Elizabeth Gloster QC, Malcolm Davis-White and Edmund Nourse (Treasury Solicitor) for the Secretary of State.

Mr Justice Jonathan Parker said that it was clear from *Hunter v Chief Constable of the West Midlands Police* [1982] AC 529 that the court's inherent jurisdiction to prevent abuse of process to civil proceedings extended to cases where, notwithstanding that the doctrines of *res judicata* and issue estoppel were inapplicable, the circumstances were such that the issue or prosecution of proceedings would be vexatious or oppressive as amounting to an attempt to re-litigate a case which had already in substance been disposed of in earlier proceedings.

It was not a prerequisite for the application of that "collateral attack" principle that the decision attacked should have been one of a court of competent jurisdiction.

That was not to say, however, that the status of the pre-

vious decision, and its relationship (if any) with the subsequent proceedings, were not important factors in deciding whether the collateral attack principle applied in a particular case.

In considering whether the principle applied in the particular circumstances of the present case, the submission made on Mr Baker's behalf, that in substance the SFA was the Secretary of State in another guise with the consequence that in commencing disqualification proceedings the Secretary of State could be said to be taking a second bite at the cherry, must be rejected.

The SFA was a company limited by guarantee, and its disciplinary jurisdiction over its members derived from its rules: it was founded in contract, not in statute, and in that respect differed from the court's jurisdiction under the 1986 Act. Moreover, withdrawal of registration by the SFA only affected an individual's ability to work for companies registered with the SFA and operating in the financial services sector, whereas a disqualification order under the 1986 Act prevented an individual from being concerned in the management of any company during the period of disqualification.

To hold that the Secretary of State was, in effect, bound by the decisions of the SFA Tribunal would be to sanction the imposition of a restriction on his powers and duties under the 1986 Act which would be inconsistent both with the express terms and the underlying purpose of the Act.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
Gascoigne n. (obsolete)

character: a braggart, boaster. Smollett in 1771 described some unfortunate character as: "a peacock in pride, in grimace a baboon, in courage a

hind, in conceit a Gascon". The word was also used for a kind of wine from Gascony. As long ago as 1550, Freiris of Berwick wrote of "ane gallone full of Gascone wine". The derived word "Gasconade" is a verb or noun meaning: (to indulge in) extravagant boasting or vainglorious fiction.



Career women turned mothers may talk about nappies for a while, but before long their work interests will surface and they may make valuable contacts

Neville Elder

Where networking is child's play

You make your first friends in the schoolyard. Many women are now finding their first business contacts here, too. By Kathy Harvey

Ask most professional women why they struggle back to work after childbirth and they nearly always mention fear of falling off the job ladder. Yes, earning enough to pay off the mortgage normally comes first, but insecurity about future status in the world of work lurks not far behind.

Tracey Posner realised the future would be uncertain when she left her job as a director with a PR and advertising firm after her first son Joshua, now nine, was born. She planned to build up her own home-based business gradually with new clients. But the contract that gave her business a springboard into a much bigger league came sooner than expected – not via a professional contact, but through another Mum on maternity leave. “I got to know her socially through trips to the local toddlers’ gym class our children attended, and she recommended me to the manager of Optiva UK, a firm which makes sonic toothbrushes. It is now one of my best clients, and has been worth around £25,000 a year to my business,” Tracey explains.

The network of connections which brought Tracey her first big solo break is out as unlikely as it sounds. As more professional women in their thirties take time off to have babies, the chance of meeting potential business contacts through children has increased. Catherine Fitzsimmons, the manager from Optiva, had no reserva-

tions about offering Tracey work after receiving a personal recommendation from a friend. “Women seem to underestimate what they will be talking about while they are on maternity leave and can be their own worst enemies in playing down their expertise. The Mum who introduced me to Tracey, Kate Symes, had watched her organising the local parent-toddler group and was impressed to see how much press attention she got for its work and for its members’ magazine. I now do a lot more work through friends’ recommendations, and finally enough the network is mainly female.”

It would be unrealistic and embarrassing to loiter round the playground in search of your next promotion. However, the break that many women take to look after younger children can give them the breathing space to find a new direction, a luxury not on offer to many men. Jo Stewart was a software engineer with IBM until she moved out to rural Gloucestershire with her husband to run a family-owned hotel and have children. “I kept in touch with colleagues at IBM through Christmas cards, but despite this I was lost to them in all but memory,” she says. “I was surprised to find that I felt a huge void after leaving the business world of

London to come here. In some sense I felt I had lost a lot of the respect I had worked so hard to build up over the years.” When the family hotel was sold after the birth of her third child, Jo began to look round for a new career. She had an idea for putting recipes onto a computerised database for businesses but no experience of the mass catering industry. “I was collecting my son from the local school one rainy afternoon,” she recalls, “when I struck up a conversation with another mum, Tricia Bidmead, who had once been in the contract-catering industry before her own family arrived. We got together and between us we have forged a successful business selling recipe software.”

The business grew to the point where it has now been sold to Granada, who employ Jo and Tricia to produce the database for them. Jo admits, however, that she would probably never have turned into an entrepreneur unless having children had forced a change of career path. “I have proved that you can start all over again in something new. But although I altered course I never stopped thinking of myself as someone who worked.” Many of her contacts were, she says, made while she was chatting with other pregnant women or new mothers.

The need to network is drummed home to everyone setting up their own business, but some experts believe women are better at it than men. Jo Bond of Counts Consulting, which specialises in helping people to find new careers, says women are often more open-minded about how they will find future work. “When we ask people to make lists of everyone who might form part of their network women are more likely to mention people who might be categorised as less important than themselves, as well as those who are higher up the career ladder. It could be the secretary in their office or the managing director of a local firm. Men tend to focus more on those people they consider to be in positions of influence, and are more likely to compartmentalise their contacts.”

Networking is, she says, about gathering information that might be useful to you, and you will get nowhere if you decide in advance how you are going to judge someone. “When I worked for myself I got one of my most lucrative contracts with a large blue-chip company through a lady I knew who was a temporary secretary in the organisation.”

The theme is echoed by women like Tracey Posner, who have used their experience as mothers to further their own career. She argues

that there is no need to be pushy, or to panic about the future when you are just learning to cope with life with children. “There’s nothing wrong in spending some time talking about nappies with other Mums for a while, and your brain certainly won’t atrophy just because you do that. At the same time you will gravitate towards other mothers with similar interests. Don’t forget that you may not get work through your own immediate contacts, but they might introduce you to someone else. I think many women network unconsciously, but you do have to be sensitive. Being friendly and talking about what interests you is always the best way forward.”

The days also seem to be long gone when you had to do a suit and pretend you worked from an office block in order to appear credible. The increase in outsourcing, independent consultancy and laptop computers have all combined to turn home working into a common occurrence. When Tracey met up with Catherine Fitzsimmons to discuss working for Optiva UK she suggested a hotel venue for the meeting. She was told not to bother. “I couldn’t see what difference it would make, as long as the conversation was conducted in a professional manner,” says Catherine. “It made no odds to

me where the meeting took place, and we have been working together successfully ever since.” She still meets up with Kate, the mum who introduced her to Tracey Posner in the first place, and who went back to her job as a head bunter for the energy industry after her own maternity leave. Their new mum network is still in place.

There is a downside of course. One mother who decided to remain nameless told how a business contact with a daughter in the same class hardly spoke to her and refused to let their children play together once the business relationship went sour. “We disagreed over how a project was going to proceed and it was fairly easy to end the professional connection. The only problem was meeting each day at the school run. As I had made the contact in a social setting originally it was rather embarrassing to find myself facing an icy glare at 8.45am every morning. On reflection, I may have rushed in too soon to make the most of a personal contact without considering the fall-out.”

Perhaps it is no surprise to discover that playground and office politics follow similar lines. But at least it is consoling to know that you don’t have to make endless trips back to the office to visit old colleagues in order to give yourself a fighting chance of a better career. Men might even start envying the opportunities that motherhood provides. It’s one club they don’t have access to.

JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

1. VELCRO SANDALS
BY HUNTER DAVIES,
AUTHOR

FOR the past 20 years I haven’t worn shoes. Where do I go, that I need shoes? I wore trainers, always plain white, whether going to the Groucho Club, while living in London, or walking up Grasmere, while living in Lakeland. In really nasty weather, I might put on some wellies, but mainly I lived in trainers.

I swore by them: how comfy, how casual, brilliant for walking, far better than those stupid walking boots which are so heavy.

The only criticism I would accept about trainers was the pong. So what, I said. Then about five years ago, I began to get problems. Nothing to do with wearing trainers, certainly not. A spot of arthritis which resulted in a nasty growth, some sort of bunion thing on my big toe. Trainers became hell to wear, wellies impossible.

Then I saw an advert in a mail-order catalogue for a new sort of walking sandal. Only £27, they said, half the retail price. I bought a pair. They were so marvellous, I bought another two. I have lived in walking



sandals for the past five years. They have these Velcro straps so I can alter them to give my bunion a bit of space. But they also happen to be enormously comfortable, with their shaped soles, and enormously strong, tough enough for any Lakeland walk. I can go over rocks and through bogs, easy peasy, and not get soaked or bring back half the bog with me.

Two years ago I went up Table Mountain in Cape Town in my sandals. I didn’t mean to. We turned up for the cable car but the queue was three hours. I said bugger this, I’m not waiting, and my wife agreed to walk with me. We got up in two hours, no problems.

I adore my sandals. They are perfect for my needs. If only we could find such ideal supports for all our practical and spiritual needs as we travel through life. I can well understand why trainers are now so passé. Ugh. Nasty smelly things. Was I really in love with them for so long?

Brian is not a fan of Blair. ‘Same as the Tories,’ he says

Continued from page 1

some clubs where women who go out Sunday lunch time are known as “pudding-burners”. The strippers aren’t in this week. Last week only 12 people turned out for the stripper.

Nobody I speak to thinks stripping is demeaning to women. “Do you get £20 for 20 minutes’ work then?” they ask me. Money is empowerment. They know this in their bones. These are the men, after all, who are being asked to work for a minimum wage of £3.60. “I wouldn’t get out of bed for £3.60 an hour. I’d rather get a shotgun and rob a bank every few months,” says a man who I suspect would never rob a bank in his life.

On the whole though, the men I talk to do not feel marginalised by the media because, as they say, they select their own entertainment. They only buy newspapers once or twice a week because of an economy drive, and then only for the football. The older guys talk of the terrible hardships of the Thirties, when to be unemployed was to be half-starved. Now, they say, since the mines and steel industry have gone, half the men in working men’s clubs don’t actually work. It’s not a crime any more. There are jobs but they are “women’s jobs. Part-time. You go down the job centre and you see jobs in supermarkets or as care assistants. There is a lot of that.”

Over and over again they tell me that women are taking over. So what will they do? “Go fishing,” laughs an out-of-work toundry worker. “It’s about time women did something,” one guy explains. “The roles are reversed now, aren’t they? I read in my wife’s magazine that young women down South can get £20,000 a year.” No one here needs a sociological explanation of the effects of globalisation, the running-down of industry and the rise of the service sector. They live it every day. The old men talk of their children who relocate, who move far away to Barnsley, even Halifax for a job.

Brian, a huge tattooed man, is not a fan of Tony Blair. Nor are many of his fellow drinkers. “Same as the Tories,” they keep on saying. The minimum wage is not a side issue for these men, it is the only issue. After all, many of them describe themselves as “retired undefeated”. At first I didn’t understand – they look too young to be retired, but these are the men who went through the miners’ strike and took the redundancy payments. “Some of them,” says Keith Chapman, “the miners with brains got as much as £40,000-£60,000”, though many slipped through the net. Other men claimed disabilities and gave me a wink when I ask what kind.

A couple of them act hard and tell



Working men drink together as always. In Sheffield they’re resigned to their fate Tom Pilston

me that you only get married so that your wife does everything. They do “nothing indoors and never will”. Afterwards their mates tell me that they are too frightened to admit that they do the housework. But these guys are adapting. Their wives work, so they pick up the kids from school. “I put the pots in the dishwasher and press the button,” they remark proudly. “My wife’s a nurse, she works shifts so I’ve got to do it,” says a 38-year-old forklift truck driver. It

is the men over 40 who find it hard to take but even they are re-thinking. While the middle classes talk of downsizing and stress, how they’d like to spend more time with their families, these men have been forced to reconsider the role of work in their lives.

“You can’t live in the past,” says a former milkman for 35 years. “I’d rather get up and hoover than go out to work at 6 o’clock. I can get up now and go out there,” he gestures to the

surrounding hills. “You may think I’m daft but it is beautiful...”

“There will never be full employment in this country, we know that,” says his older friend. Like many men, he now sees more of his grandchildren than he ever did of his own kids. A pensioner called Dennis fetches his poems for me. They are about his eternal love for his wife and how everyone thought that after the war they would build a better country.

I do not meet a soul who does not accept that the roles between men and women have changed. Why do we assume that the motor of social change always comes from the South rather than the North? Some of these men have wives with three jobs who are learning to drive, while they have no work and no car. “The ones that can’t change, they’re going to end up in the shit.” These men are more flexible than anyone gives them credit for, yet it is in their attitude to work itself that I find the residual definitions of masculinity that seem to be holding them back. Men’s work is hard physical labour. They would rather work all day in a damp pit than work on a till in a supermarket. What they want is the camaraderie involved in moving parts of the earth. That is what they get here in the club. They drink together as if to remind themselves that they once worked together. They still eat the food that working men eat. They like their pork butchers. “There’s nowt that comes out of a pig that you can’t sell except its squeal.” They were pleased about BSE because it brought down the price of a steak. “It’s always been there, even 45 years ago I used to see the farmers shoot the wobbly cows.” Who will look after these men? “We look after each other,” they keep

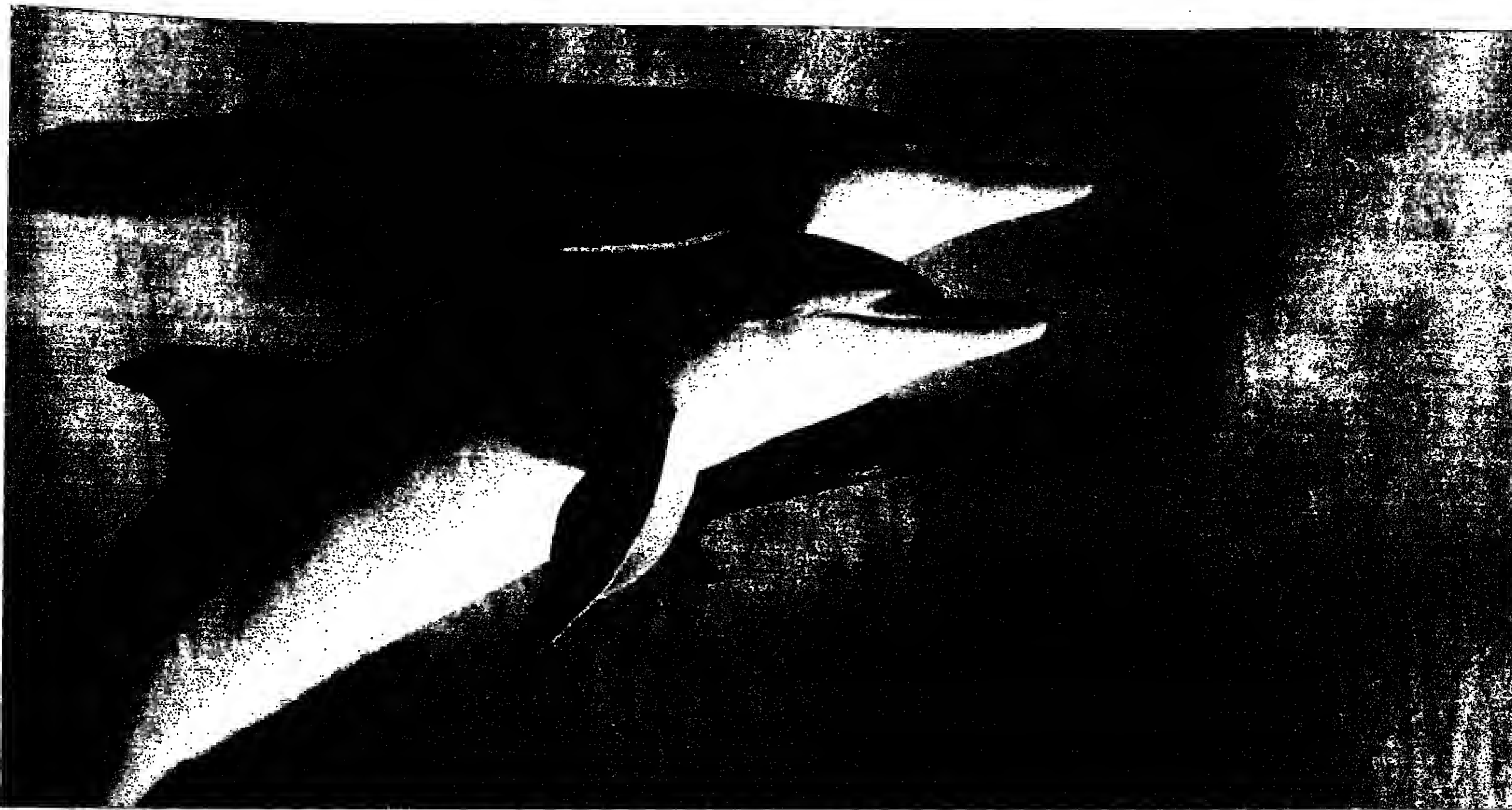
saying, as if saying it enough will make it true. Without the work that fostered the solidarity, they have to rely on increasingly fragmented social networks. That night they could see a Phil Collins tribute band and later in the month watch the England v Romania match and get a full silver service five-course dinner for £12 a head. That’s good value. They like everyone else these days, are forced to define themselves through what they consume.

“We don’t get many career women in here, Suzanne,” says Keith, yet no one I meet uses the phrase working class. “What we get here is a good class of person.”

But does the rest of the world care? For no one talks anymore about good and bad or even class, they talk of demographics, of aspiration, of lifestyle, of consumer profiles. In the midst of all this, what happens to working men whose lives are not the ones they thought they would have, whose lives are not loved but lost? “You’ve got to move on” was a phrase I heard repeated many times. But fully formed new identities don’t just drop out of the sky. While the rest of the world moves on, they watch and wonder and clutch their pints as if they, too, might be taken away put just out of their reach like so many other of their expectations.

هكذا من الأصل

Aren't they cute? Except when they're trying to blow you up...



The use of dolphins by the US Navy has been known about for years, but their role remains a secret. Below, a Soviet 'kamikaze' dolphin?

Donald Tipton (above), Douglas Cartledge (below)

A Soviet special forces diver is parachuted from extreme altitude into sensitive waters. His secret mission is to use high-tech sonar equipment to locate a piece of valuable military hardware that has accidentally splashed down in the wrong place. In the event of meeting an enemy diver, this Hero of the People is equipped with a weapon that will inject his adversary with 3,000psi of carbon dioxide and literally blow him up. Sounds like a scene from a re-make of *Thunderbolt*? Well all this really happened, and it gets better. The highly trained operative was a dolphin.

The controversial use of dolphins and other sea mammals by the US Navy has been known about for a number of years, although the precise extent and nature of their activities is still shrouded in military secrecy. But details of the parallel Soviet developments in the field are only now starting to emerge, and they tell a literally fantastic Cold War story. They also beg the question as to whether the Americans have been doing similar things.

The idea of training airborne dolphins, for example, seems incredible. But conservation campaigners have heard the tale first-hand from the former Soviet naval personnel who trained the animals to "jump" from heights of up to three kilometres to avoid detection. Other dolphin "soldiers" were pitched directly from helicopters 50 ft above the sea. "If I hadn't seen the evidence myself I just wouldn't have believed it,"

Bizarre as it seems, dolphin 'soldiers' were parachuted from helicopters above the sea by the Soviet Navy and were the US Navy's deadly agents in the Gulf. By John Davison

says Doug Cartledge, a dolphin consultant and front-line campaigner with the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS). He has visited the highly secret naval base at Sevastopol on the Black Sea, home to the once-proud Dolphin Division, to advise trainers on alternative uses for their expertise now that both are surplus to military requirement. While being shown around the unit's museum he saw a full-size model of a dolphin wearing a parachute harness.

"I was amazed at how open they were about the whole thing. But they are desperate for help," says Doug, who once ran the dolphinarium at Windsor Safari Park but has since campaigned for the release of captive dolphins. He was even taken on exercise with the few remaining military-trained animals.

The unit is now part of the independent Ukrainian navy, but there are no funds to run it and a special ship used to transport the animals was recently commandeered by the Russian Navy. The unit has sold off most of its animals to make ends meet. It has also gone into business with a private company to capture more than 30 Black Sea dolphins from the wild for sale to dolphinariums in several countries.

The most controversial of its past activities was the training of "killer dolphins" for use against enemy divers. The US has always stren-



ously denied that its animals have been used in this way, and even animal rights campaigners have been sceptical about the possibility of doing it. A dolphin is so sensitive to distress signals from divers, they say, that even if it were possible to get an animal to unwittingly kill once, it would not do the same thing again. The secrets of Sevastopol, however, show how the Soviets devised a way of doing just this.

A known use for dolphins by both

superpowers was in guarding naval installations. If an underwater intruder was located then they would "report back" to their handlers, acting as an effective early warning system. The Soviet "guards", however, would carry a titanium clamp on the nose, which could be attached to any diver they found by simply nudging them. On the clamp was a device, the size of a ping-pong ball, capable of injecting a high-pressure charge of CO₂ into the diver's body. This was

activated remotely if a subsequent search failed to locate the enemy.

It has also been reported that Soviet dolphins were trained to carry out "kamikaze" missions. Explosives were supposedly strapped to their backs and they were sent out to blow up enemy submarines. One estimate said that a total of about 2,000 animals had died on such operations. Doug was told that a total of 300 animals had been "tested to destruction" in the Black Sea alone.

The Dolphin Division was established in 1968, following the mysterious sinking of the Black Sea fleet's flagship in Sevastopol harbour. Apart from guard work, other uses include search and recovery following the test firing of navy missiles and torpedoes. Often these could not be detected using conventional sonar equipment - a dolphin's superior system can penetrate up to a metre under the sea bed.

It seems that Doug is not the only one who finds this fascinating. Last month the WDCS detected an attempt to hack into its computers by the Pentagon. The US Navy had previously asked for an advance copy of a report into the trade in Black Sea bottlenose dolphins, which used some of Doug's research. The Americans' own Marine Mammal Program, also once a top-secret affair, has become more visible since the end of the Cold War. Animal rights campaigners there, however, are convinced that the full story has still to be told. One former civilian trainer from the unit claims that killer dolphins have been used by the US, in a wonderfully named "swimmer nullification program".

In 1994 the navy announced that it was to pension off up to 30 of its dolphins, for sale to dolphinariums and leisure parks. There has since been a growing clamour for the animals to be released into the wild and for the whole operation to be closed

down. The issue has been the subject of numerous legal actions and in the process quite a lot of information has come to light.

The US programme, known as NRAD, is based at San Diego, California, and was established in 1959 with a single dolphin for the purpose of conducting scientific research into sonar. By 1994 the unit had grown to 123 animals, including 20 sea lions and several beluga and false killer whales used for recovering test-fire hardware from depths of up to 500 ft. At its height, the programme was said to cost \$8m a year.

The first recorded use of dolphins on guard duty was in Vietnam in 1970. The only other "operational deployment" that has been admitted involved five dolphins used to protect navy ships in the Persian Gulf for eight months in 1987-1988 during the Iran-Iraq war. The navy has denied that dolphins were used during the Gulf war, but it says the animals have been used for mine-hunting.

The most recent allegation of US military use came in February this year, after the mysterious deaths of 22 dolphins whose bodies were washed up on the French coast. All had a neat, fist-sized hole on the underside of their necks. One theory was that the animals had been part of the American naval operation sending warships to the Gulf at the time of threatened military action against Iraq, and had been killed after "deserting", so their mission would not be discovered.

Who knows? Given the bizarre history of this form of underwater warfare, anything seems possible.

The war was over, but the nightmares were just beginning

REVELATIONS

BERYL BAINBRIDGE, PHILHARMONIC HALL, LIVERPOOL, 1946

WE WERE never taught about the war at school. Because my father's business friends in Liverpool were mostly Jewish, I actually believed that the war was being fought to save the Jews. I couldn't have been more wrong.

When the war was over we went to the Philharmonic in Liverpool. We got out of the train at Exchange station, then walked in a crocodile to the Philharmonic Hall in Hope Street and saw the films the troops had taken when they entered Belsen.

It was the most extraordinary, numbing experience - those little mummified skeletons which were just being pushed up by a machine, to be carted into pits ... I had nightmares for a long time afterwards.

At 14 I was thrown out of school for writing rude rhymes, and went away to ballet school at Tring. Every time my parents came down in the car for the weekend there were rows between them. Before that, my brother and I had taken it in turns

to stay in rather than leave them on their own, to try and stop the shouting - no physical violence, but verbal horrors ...

Because of the way my parents were, I had to sleep with my mother. My brother slept with my father. Two things used to annoy my mother tremendously: I had a cough, a psychological cough, and I had nightmares, and she'd get cross. I'd be moaning and rolling about, and she'd say, "For God's sake Beryl, keep still".

I think - and talk - about death a lot, and I encourage my children to talk about death. That must have something to do with all those years ago, with seeing the Belsen films.

As far as my writing went, I was always just making sense of everything. That was the reason I started writing: to make sense of what was happening in my own home. So I fixed the first six novels more or less around my own childhood. One or two of them have got Italian prisoners in them, or German prisoners,

None of them refers to the Holocaust or the Jews.

I've been in some terrible arguments with people about those years, talking about the horror of the whole thing and how people could do it and why. My argument was - still is - that it's so much easier to blame one man. It wasn't just one person but thousands who joined in.

Had I come from a happy, jolly home, maybe I'd have been able to come home and say, "Hullo, isn't it awful and sad?" But like any trauma - and in my case I'm sure it was a trauma - I began to merge my own background into the Holocaust, to use my past instead of writing about the Holocaust. It was my own particular nightmare: the voices in the night, the hanging and shouting, and then the silence.



It seemed to me that those films were like some image from nowhere, because nobody afterwards, or in the following years, ever said: "Wasn't it terrible what the Germans did?" It was all shuffled aside. Nobody went on and on about it. If all began to fade into the back-

ground, except for those white skeletons being piled up, the bodies.

Anything that you live through in your own time, at an impressionable age, becomes part of you. If you happen to turn into a writer, those are the themes you hit on, so that you will always be writing about conflict and oppression. It doesn't have to be torture, or killing people, but it has to have death in it, that's important. It goes very deep, so deep that you're not so aware of it. You turn, in the end, more towards subjects that are to do with death.

My first book had a death in it, and the second one. The third or fourth had a hostage situation in it. Young Adolf was pointing out what might make people behave oddly.

Two years ago I went by train with my editor, Alice Thomas Ellis, to

Poland to do some lectures, and we ended up in Cracow, which is half an hour from Auschwitz. I never got there: they wouldn't let me go, they thought it would upset me. I was desperate to go there. I'm furious I never insisted.

Cracow is untouched. The Germans were about to blow it up, but the Americans got there quicker, so it's medieval, with sloping roofs ...

We got off the train and felt this terrible weight - of something terribly wrong. The camps were 12 or 15 miles away, so that the ashes, the smoke, must have stuck to the roofs of all those houses.

I don't read Jewish literature any more. I haven't read camp literature for years. I had many books on the camps, and about Adolf and the rise of fascism, and I read them and read them until I had children of my own. After that I found myself unable to open a book on it.

I'm now published in Germany, and I went to Frankfurt Book Fair last year, but I'm uneasy about Ger-

mans because of my generation. Every time I gave a reading of the last book, *Every Man For Himself*, somebody - young, old or middle-aged - would get up and say, apropos of my book, *Young Adolf*, "What do you think about the Germans?" They're all terribly anxious to talk about it. But I used to look at elderly ladies in the cafés, with grandchildren ...

One doesn't grow away from the influence of those Belsen films, because it never stops. You might have a period in your life, perhaps when you're bringing up children, when you're occupied solely with that. It's only afterwards, when you give some thought to the rest of the world, that you realise that in spite of the heart transplants, longer life and the so-called poor having washing machines and cars and trainer shoes, what people do to each other has not progressed in the slightest: we're just getting better at doing it, at pressing buttons and doing it - and that's a terrifying thought.

Most artists find success by carving out a niche in one medium. Others won't be pigeonholed so easily. By Andrew G Marshall

Divide and rule with the genre benders

Is it a book, is it a CD, a music video, a film, a website or a postcard? No, it's Luke Sutherland. With the media breaking down into ever more niche markets, it is harder for new artists to achieve mainstream success; however, if they can work a variety of different media there is more chance of being heard. Sutherland, 28, is a prime example, considering himself both a musician and a writer. His band, Long Fin Killie, is a cult success, with John Peel placing one of its tracks in his top 10 favourite songs of the year. Now he has written *Jelly Roll*, a muscular novel about men in crisis set against the backdrop of a jazz band touring Scotland. The book is scheduled to become a film next year.

"I've been writing for longer than I've been playing," Sutherland says. "I was in bands from the age of 18 and sending stories to magazines, but the music took off first. I started writing *Jelly Roll* in 1990 but had to put it away until Long Fin Killie had a van accident touring Sweden. I was thrown out of a window and broke a collarbone and shoulder blade and had a partially collapsed lung. Recovering last year, I finished the novel."

"Books and music help each other along. I'm surprised that more of this has not happened. The only other person I know of who has had both out at the same time is Nick Cave. Although I always felt I had stories to tell, I could never find the voice. Until, on my way to a lecture as a student, I went into the university bookshop and flicked through a short story by Janice Galloway, a Scottish writer, and the language blew me away. When I listen to songs, I lock into the sound of the music, not the lyrics, and reading this book I found myself responding to the rhythm of the words rather than the story. It was a quietly life-affirming moment."

Sutherland is difficult to categorise. "I'm adopted, my parents were white, and I have Afro-American ancestry. I was born in London, moved to Humberston and then to the Orkney Islands. I've also lived on the Borders and then Perthshire. I don't feel I belong anywhere, but I get a kick out of that."

Another artist making waves on more than one front is Jamie Di Salvio, who started as a film-maker and DJ but now, as Bran Van 3000, has a Top 40 single, "Drinking in LA", and is touring Europe with Massive Attack. "While others are virtuous musicians because of a particular

love for the cello, I do music as a way of exploring my creativity," says Di Salvio. "All my media have a common denominator; they are all attempts at getting to know myself better. In many ways the different areas complement each other; the songs I have written are narrative based because I have been working on film scripts. I'm also playing with notions for a graphic novel."

Di Salvio decided to take the plunge into music during a stint in New York, where he was directing a jazz video: "It gave me \$10,000 in cash and I hopped on the subway down to 42nd Street and bought some studio equipment." The result is the CD *Glee*, whose style ranges from trip hop to ZZ Top. "I impose no walls on media and none on musical genres either," Jamie Di Salvio, who is the same age as Sutherland, believes his generation does not recognise boundaries: "If I'd been around in the Fifties I'd never have been able to make a record. I'm not a singer or a player, so I wouldn't have performed in night-clubs and an A&R person would not have signed me, so technology has allowed me to make a record. There are people who have done great things by focusing on one thing their whole life and finally painting the Sistine Chapel, or whatever their medium, but my medium is all media."

It is easy to forget how we used to pigeonhole creative people. When Jane Asher wrote her first cake book no one was interested. "In those days actresses did not write; it was not the done thing," says Asher. "Nobody liked my ideas - they thought there were plenty of cake books. It was a real struggle to get it published; it took seven or eight attempts. How things have changed - actresses are always being asked to write something because they know a name will sell." Jane Asher is now a novelist too. Her second, *The Question*, is a well-plotted story of betrayal and revenge.

When Sutherland is asked whether he wants to be both a musician and a writer, he makes a face. "I have an instinctive reaction against someone being known for one thing and branching out into something else, with the assumption that the something else will be of less artistic merit - not a first choice." He is honest enough to admit that he can be prejudiced against other multi-talented artists. "It's good as long as the quality is maintained. I must admit when I hear that a comedian like David Baddiel has written a book, I'm guilty of thinking they are



'I've been writing for longer than I've been playing,' says Luke Sutherland, novelist and member of Long Fin Killie. Rui Xavier

just trying to make more money."

As a consumer, Jamie Di Salvio does not care about the background of the performers: "William S Burroughs was not a musician but I like his records, and there are moments now where non-musicians are starting to reach your heart with their records. I have the wild card. Although other people have studied jazz standards at Berkeley, where is the song that is getting my soul?"

Although the costs of creating might have been brought down by new technology, marketing budgets have needed to rise dramatically in order to attract our attention. So it

makes sense to find artists who can succeed across different media and spread the costs. Sutherland's book carries an ad for his new music project, Bows, and the record company is promoting the book on its website. "Excellence itself does not necessarily find an audience. Things which help get a book out to a wider public are increasingly important," says John Sadler, publisher of Anchor Books, Transworld's new literary publishing list. However he believes Sutherland is unique: "Lyrics are a short event and to go from that to a narrative book is a huge jump. Although technical barriers to film and

music have been swept away - the equipment is accessible and easy to use - writing a book is the same as it was 100 years ago."

Jelly Roll is being hyped as having more sex than *A White Merc* with Fins, more drugs than *Trainspotting* and more rock'n'roll than *The Commitments*. With the children of the multimedia age reaching adulthood, Sutherland could well be the vanguard of a new wave of artists who simply defy categorisation. The trend will be accentuated when the new breed of Ultra-Super bookstores arrives here from the US. They stock not just

books, but CDs, CD-Roms and tie-in theme merchandise from films and videos - along with food and coffee. So soon we'll be able to buy the latest products from Luke Sutherland and Bran Van 3000 under one roof, while refreshing ourselves with one of Jane Asher's cakes.

Jelly Roll by Luke Sutherland is published by Anchor at £6.99, and his musical project, Bows, releases its CD in the autumn. *The Question* by Jane Asher is published by HarperCollins at £16.99. Bran Van 3000's CD, *Glee*, is out on 15 June on Capitol.

RENAISSANCE PEOPLE: ARTISTIC ALL-ROUNDERS

Versatile rock gods
LEONARD COHEN (*Beautiful Losers*) and Bob Dylan (*Chronicles*) both produced acclaimed volumes of writing, while last year Ray Davies used characters from Kinks songs as the basis for a novel. As well as more than a dozen dark, murderous albums with the Birthday Party and the Bad Seeds, Nick Cave has written a novel, *And the Ass Saw the Angel*. Captain Beefheart, the man with the vocal range of four and a half octaves, was a child art prodigy until he met Frank Zappa at high school. Since giving up his Magic Band, the Captain has returned to art, exhibiting widely under his real name, Don Van Vliet.



Musical novelists
ANTHONY BURGESS: The writer of *A Clockwork Orange* and *Earthly Powers* included a setting of Joyce's *Ulysses* among his compositions. A recent CD of his guitar music had critics reaching for the ear-plugs. The only novelist to cover himself in musical glory has been Paul Bowles. His first novel, *The Sheltering Sky*, didn't appear until 1949, by which time he had already written most of the 150 compositions, including two operas, that make up his oeuvre. He also helped to engineer the legendary meeting between Rolling Stone Brian Jones and the Pan Pipes of Joujouka.



Serious comics
BEN ELTON: writing novels and plays has increasingly displaced comedy as his core activity - no bad thing if his just-finished BBC series was anything to go by. He is joined in the league of comedians turned writers by Ardal O'Hanlon, David Baddiel and Rob Newman, along with Sean Hughes and Pauline Melville.



Oh, and then there's...
Bruce Dickinson, Iron Maiden singer, former member of the British fencing team and author of a science fantasy novel... Albert Camus, goalkeeper and intellectual... Damien Hirst, artist, video director, restaurateur... Naomi Campbell, model and "novelist"... and the template, Brian Eno, singer, songwriter, composer, producer, avant-garde entrepreneur, performance artist, conceptual artist, thinker, seer, prophet...

The real super furry animals

POP
JAMES RAMPTON

THE WOMBLES
REGENCY ROOMS,
LONDON

THE LATE 1990s - where everything comes with inbuilt inverted commas - is exactly the right time for a comeback by The Wombles. The audience of twentysomething hipsters at the ultra-fashionable Regency Rooms variety show in London last week obviously thought so. They accorded the super furry animals' first live show for 24 years a standing ovation - before they'd even played a note. As trendsetters yallow in the 1970s retro-chic of everything from *Saturday Night Fever* to platform shoes, you sometimes wonder why dedicated followers of fashion can't latch on to



something fresh and innovative, rather than reheating a 1970s stew with ironic flavouring.

For all that, The Wombles did put on a storming show when they topped the bill last week. The show had up until that point been like a 1970s warm-up. Singer Jackie Chune had donned a Bacofoil jumpsuit and matching shoes to croon the timeless Carpenters num-

ber, "Calling Occupants of Interplanetary Craft", and a naff comedian called Frankie Tan had impersonated such 1970s icons as *Stingray*, *Swampshop*, *Top Cat* and *The Double Deckers*. All that was missing was a song from Leo Sayer (he'd been at the Regency Rooms a couple of weeks earlier).

The kitsch host of the evening, Lenny Beige, gave

The Wombles a suitably tongue-in-cheek billing: "You need a band to come back and show the kids how it's really done. They influenced a generation, and we've been recycling ever since. I'm gonna introduce you to one of the greatest bands ever..." With a build-up like that, are you surprised the crowd went wild?

Led by the ageless Mike Batt as Orinoco, The Wombles proceeded, as they say in the heaviest rock circles, to tear up the joint. What was all the more amazing given that on a sweltering night they wore dressed not only in rodent costumes but hats and scarves too. After bringing the house down, there was excitable talk of The Wombles playing the spiritual home of all cult acts, Glastonbury. Anything Rolf Harris can do...

'The Wombles Song' is re-released this week.

Wilde words, mild music

CLASSICAL
STEPHEN JOHNSON

BACH CHOIR,
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL,
LONDON

CHOOSING THE right words, said one composer, is half the battle. If so, Robert Walker fought that half of the battle well. From the long and, as Walker admits, "patchy" letter Oscar Wilde wrote from prison to his lover Alfred Douglas, he contrived a fine, moving text, part narrative, part inspired sermon, packed with choice Wildean epigrams: "He who would lead a Christ-like life must be entirely and absolutely himself. Most people are other people; their life is mimicry, their passions a quotation."

The musical result, *De Profundis*, for baritone, chorus

and orchestra, suggests - to a point - a composer determined to be entirely and absolutely himself. Walker turns his back on fashionable "isms". Much of *De Profundis* isn't so much post-modern as pre-modern.

If the choral writing (elegant and obviously good to sing) echoes anyone, it is the young Gustav Holst. In the final bars comes a quotation from Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*; *De Profundis* was commissioned by the Bach Choir's new musical director, David Hill, to accompany Elgar's masterpiece.

At the opening, the soloist speaks Wilde's account of his ordeal at Clapham Junction, handcuffed on the platform in front of jeering crowds - the orchestra simply accompanying then bravely evoking the mocking laughter. Essentially it's an old device, but effective enough here - all credit to the baritone David Wilson-Johnson for de-

livering it with such conviction. If *De Profundis* had all been on this level it could have delivered quite a punch. But all too often the music seems ancillary to the words, sweetly generalised rather than rising to the heights of Wilde's visionary passion and bitterness. However the performance, especially from the Bach Choir, was full of feeling and with exemplary clarity of enunciation.

The same qualities were apparent in the choral singing throughout *The Dream of Gerontius*. The much derided Demons' Chorus had spirit and enough acrid colouring to suggest that these really were hellish hordes ready to devour lost souls, even if they were wearing Victorian dinner suits.

This was David Hill's first concert as director of the Bach Choir, and it is obvious that he has made his mark. Good playing, too, from the Bournemouth

Symphony Orchestra, as in *De Profundis* - Hill isn't just a choral conductor. Both parts of *Gerontius* were well shaped, with powerful climaxes and the requisite sense of serene undercurrent in part two.

Adrian Thompson was persuasive in the title role - not searingly powerful, perhaps, but warmly human and especially touching in moments of quiet intensity. Wilson-Johnson, reincarnated as Elgar's Priest and Angel of the Agony, was on stirring form. Jean Rigby's Angel was disappointing; I was aware of the sound of the voice, much less of musical phrasing. Still, it was a performance to remind you what a great work this is. Irredeemably English? Its first triumph came in Düsseldorf - not at the Birmingham premiere. We may cherish Elgar as a national institution, but it wasn't always us who discovered his work.

كلوا من الاصل

It's life, but not as we know it

Lucian Freud has been called the world's greatest living realist painter. But whose reality is he painting? Tom Lubbock isn't sure, but he likes what he sees

LUCIAN FREUD'S "Portrait on a Red Sofa" is various kinds of picture, but a portrait is not obviously one of them. It is, I suppose, a nude. The figure is a naked woman, face nearly averted, limbs akimbo, posed over this piece of furniture in a most peculiar way, almost upside down, one hand placed on the floor, one foot over the back of the sofa. Or, if you look for an everyday life reading of this pose it can only be a sex-position, though whether auto-erotic or with off-stage partner isn't clear. Or again, there are inkings of grand narrative: imagine away the sofa and the room, and the woman becomes one of those noble, plunging figures from a Christian apocalypse, like something out of Rubens' "Fall of the Damned". But he doesn't often bring it off like this.

"Portrait on a Red Sofa" is one of the 27 works in *Lucian Freud: Some New Paintings*, which opened last week at the Tate Gallery. The idea itself is *hardly* new. This is a small show of Freud's pictures from the last five years or so, most of which - as the publicity elegantly phrases it - have "peeled into" private collections. The Tate doesn't normally do this sort of display. But since Freud isn't represented by a British gallery who might put his recent work on public show, the Tate has taken on the job. In other words, this is public service curating. It assumes, I guess rightly, that there is a public who will want, will need to know the latest news from Lucian Freud.

What news is it? Nothing revolutionary. Freud hasn't found startlingly new models, as he did at the start of the *Nineties* with Leigh Bowery and a very large woman known as Big Sue. The paint has got

even more dotty, so that when you go up to a picture expecting to enjoy some brushwork, you often find a granular moon-surface has accumulated, a heavy deposit which doesn't appear to correspond to what's depicted, just registers a much-corrected bit of anatomy. But there are some fantastic bits of painting, especially of dogs.

What sort of news do you expect from Freud, though? His business is reality, everyone says so. He is "the greatest living realist painter" (Robert Hughes), or even "the only living realist painter" (John Russell). But if you like the sound of that, remember that reality is admitted into his pictures on very strict conditions. It must, nearly always, be happening in his studio. And in a factual way, the main news here is that Freud's studio hasn't changed a lot from what we knew before. It still has its bare boards and discoloured walls, still that worn leather sofa and plain bed. *People* are still coming in to sit, stand or lie around, clothed or naked, to be painted. The dog - the old greyhound - hasn't died.

Freud operates by the rules of that by no means old genre, life-painting. Life-painting means painting people without any motive other than the desire to paint people, where all you can say about the models is that they're being painted. It's a modern practice, after all the traditional ways of doing humans - narratives, allegories, everyday scenes - had come to feel phony. It's a radical reduction. Freud has made this genre his own, but it's worth remembering how odd its conventions are.

It involves not asking certain obvious questions - as with several of

the pictures here. Looking at "Girl in Attic Doorway" for instance, you're not meant to ask what's she doing up there with no clothes on, her legs dangling out of a trapdoor at the top of the wall? Or with "Pluto and the Bateman Sisters", what are those two women doing bare on a mattress with that sleeping dog? Or with "Sunny Morning - Eight Legs": what's he doing on that bed, limbs akimbo, arm embracing the same dog, and why are there two more male legs poking out from under the bed? At least, you're not meant to think up a story behind it.

On the other hand, I don't think you're meant to fall back on the common sense answer, either, that these scenes are simply studio constructions, artistic arrangements of flesh, dog, prop and background. No, they want to come over as some sort of real life. And they do. Freud doesn't work like that other life-painter Euan Uglow; Uglow is quite up-front about his studio constructions. In his pictures, the studio is reduced to a blank, neutral setting. The models are pretty well anonymised. What you get are bodies, arranged.

But Freud's studio is always an actual, particular place. His sitters are identifiable individuals (family

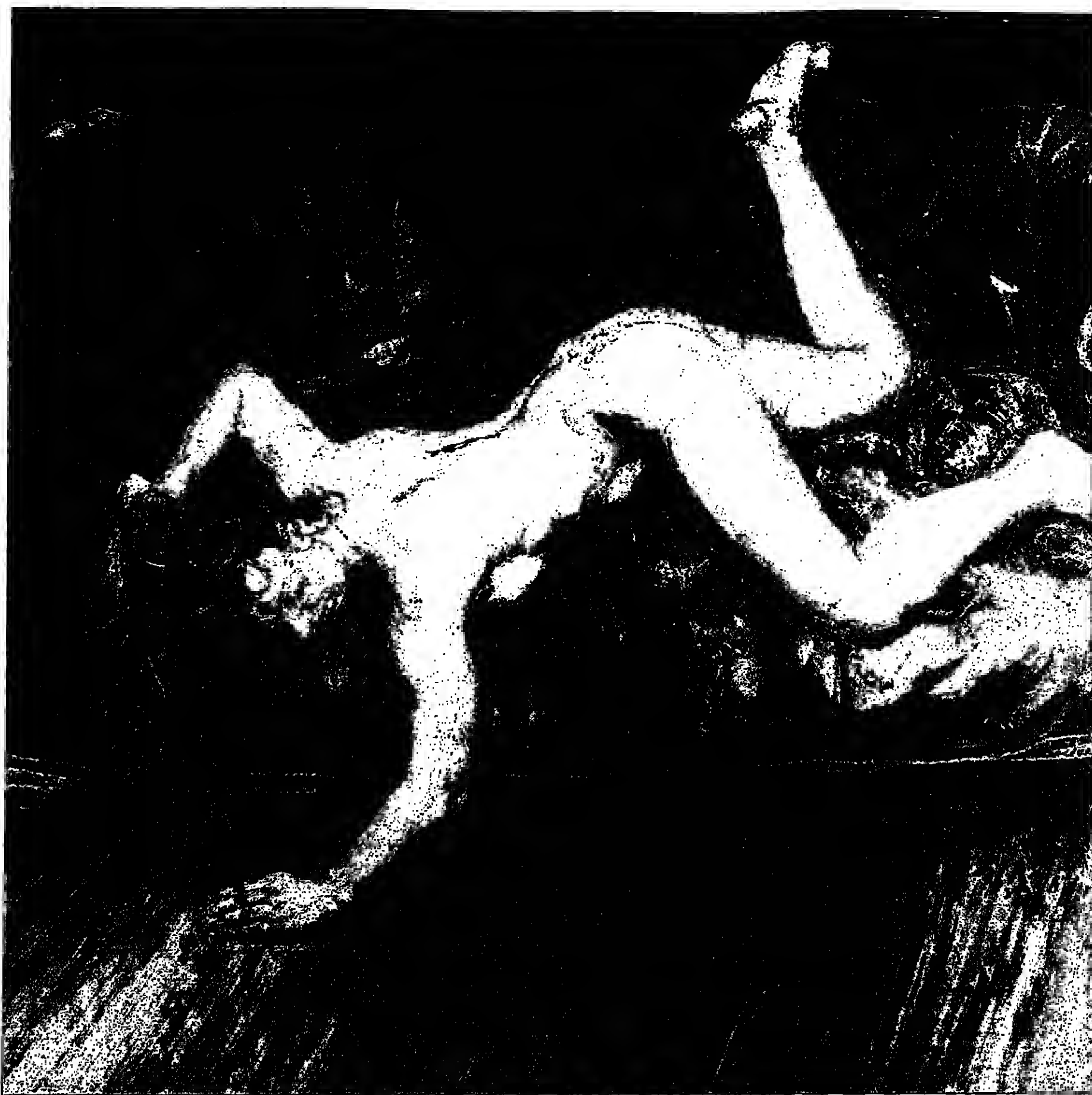
and friends). His compositions are awkward - suggesting that the incident has some inconvenient actuality, independent of the artist's whim. Yet his scenes don't look at all like slices of life. There's no pretence that they're taken from the everyday lives of these individuals. There's no pretence that this place is anything but that strange no-man's-land between fiction and actuality, an artist's studio.

This has a point, of course, or Freud has given it one. It becomes a form of concentration and isolation, a way of getting hold of and exposing the essential human thing, as

apart from all social excrescences - a way of focusing on flesh, embodiment, mortality, sheer human presence. But at the same time, those stubborn, realistic questions about what's going on here can never really be held at bay. Straining between inarticulate drama and implausible verité, Freud's scenes take on the aspect of solemn play. What are these people doing? They've come into his studio to take part in a weird existential charade. "Who are you being darling?" "I'm being stark human presence - isn't it obvious?" The studio itself then dramatises this play. It's not just

a studio, but a deliberately equipped theatre of bleakness.

The charade continues, oblivious to its oddity, and sometimes it becomes simply comic. The intensity of the looking and the painting can't overcome the preposterousness of the set-ups. Or it might be better to say that Freud has fixed his art with tensions that much of the time pull it apart, but sometimes come wonderfully together - images which, whatever questions you put to them, have an answer, that prove themselves real every way. I come back to "Portrait On A Red Sofa". That is the good news here.



'Portrait on a Red Sofa' by Lucian Freud. A nude in the classical style or unambiguous erotic voyeurism?

Tate Gallery



Left to right: Michael Ayton's Arsenal painting; work by Claudia Bose; a Kazakh nomad's rug; and a bowl by Mary Rich

Arsenal and Villa in the picture

ART MARKET

THE MOST glitzy event of the art-market year - the Grosvenor House Art and Antiques Fair - abandoned its datelines four years ago, which means that, among the many Old Masters and antique silver, you can now see a selection of 20th century works such as Michael Ayton's painting of Arsenal vs Aston Villa at Highbury in 1962, price £36,000 on Peter Nahum's stand. Arsenal won the match 3-1.

The fair in Park Lane, west London, opens on Thursday, June 11 (11am-5pm) until June 20, other weekdays (11am-6pm) and on weekends (11am-6pm). Entry fee is £15

for a single including handbook (£13 in advance), £25 for a double including handbook (£23 in advance), £8 for a single ticket during the last two hours of each day (without a handbook it's still £8), and children under 12 with an adult get in free (0171-495 8743).

AT THE other end of the price range, with no reserve price over £100, an auction of 390 works from the studio of 34-year-old German painter Claudia Bose, who graduated from the Royal Academy two years ago. She is raising money for her forthcoming sabbatical in Berlin.

Eighty per cent of estimates are £20-£150. The auction is tomorrow (7pm) and the paintings are on view until then, at the Proud Gallery, 5 Buckingham Street, Strand, central London - where Bose's earlier

solo show realised prices of over £3,000. Her portrait of a Jewish man, *Golders Green*, 30 by 22ins, oil on paper, is estimated at £100 (reserve £40) in the sale (0171-839 4942).

THE FIRST-EVER fair dedicated to textiles - rapidly rising in value - opens with 50 dealers this week in London, the market's hub.

Among textiles for sale is a mid-20th century embroidered cotton wall hanging, 6ft by 4ft, from a Kazakh nomad's yurt (hut) on the borders of Siberia, where the Kazakhs are again herding their yaks and camels after fleeing to Mongolia from the Russians. It is £1,000 at the stand of the Kew dealer Dennis Woodman (0161-878 8182).

The Hali International Antique Carpet and Textile Art Fair is at Olympia 2, Thursday-Monday,

entry £5 (0171-710 2135). The adjacent Olympia Fine Art and Antiques Fair is until Sunday (0171-370 8186/8212).

POTTER Mary Rich, trained by David Leach in the early Sixties, has potted full-time in Cornwall for the past 36 years. Her porcelain bowls, which show Middle Eastern influence, are glazed and fired three times. She applies liquid bright gold and other lustres. The bowls, ranging from 12-20in, £140-£350, together with a selection of her bottles and pots and porcelain by Emmanuel Cooper and Mary Vigor, are in *Perceptions in Porcelain*, at the Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Riverside Mill, Bovey Tracey, until Sunday (10am-5.30pm seven days a week). Inquiries (01626-832223).

JOHN WINDSOR

When art is a dangerous ride back to childhood

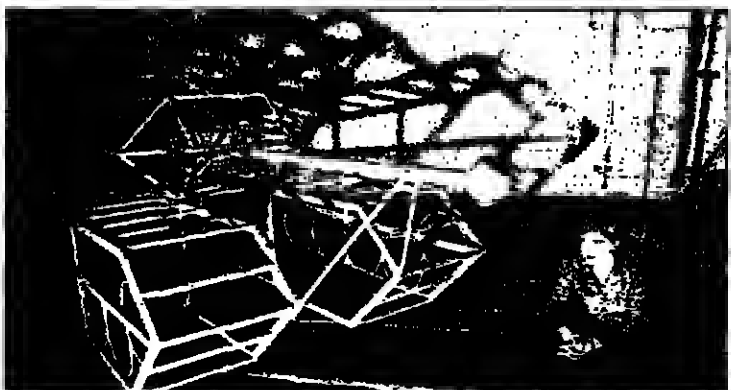
THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

LUCY WOOD'S artworks can kill and maim. They are found objects - playground climbing-frames condemned as unsafe. She picks them up in hired flat-bed trucks that she drives herself.

Spruced up and gloss-painted, they look harmless enough - like ethereal, drawing-board designs. But, whenever they are put on show, attendants mount guard to stop children - and adults - from climbing on them. A glance at the list of genuine casualties, displayed alongside, is usually enough to scare them off: "Fatality, head and spine injuries, damaged testicles, concussion, fracture, open fracture, fractured wrist and elbow, fractured arm and wrist, injured shin and knee, laceration..."

Wood signs indemnity agreements with the donors, local authorities, promising that the dangerous playthings will never again be played on. Contractors who remove them from playgrounds are happy to let her drive off with them for nothing. And safety organisations have helped her to compile casualty statistics. But she is unpopular with manufacturers, who refuse to tell her the whereabouts of newly-condemned equipment.

Charles Saatchi bought for £3,000 Wood's early work, *Can't Play, Won't Play!* - a trampoline with a sheet of glass where the canvas should be. That work led her to seek other, forbidden objects that seduce the view-



Lucy Wood, with 'War Games'

Kalpesh Lathigra

er into wanting to use them. Condemned children's climbing-frames fitted the concept, ready-made. She inserts strips of glass into them, to emphasise the danger.

Wood, 29, a graduate of Camberwell College, London, says: "I'm playing psychological games with adults whose competitiveness probably dates back to the days when they played on such frames. Now they are faced with a dilemma - 'Oh, but it's dangerous'. It's a shock that makes them confront their competitiveness as adults. Some of them step back like children and look panic-stricken."

She first clapped eyes on the tank - now entitled *War Games* - on a bleak council estate in Romford. "All you could see was this tank on top of a hill, seemingly blasting the tower blocks. I thought to myself, 'What on earth were those designers thinking of? What has happened to the softness of childhood? No wonder some children feel aggressive.'"

In her south London studio she has a collection of condemned

frames and a roundabout. But she has not yet found a conical "witch's hat" swing. This weighed a ton. Yet gangs of children could lift it off its ball-pivot and crush themselves - or pull the swing to one side and release it to hit a bystander. The swings were destroyed in the Seventies.

Wood has exhibited at the South London and the Tannery galleries and at Spacex in Exeter. This year's Whitechapel Open showed her *Fatal Attraction*, a car-shaped climbing-frame condemned for trapping children. The car is for sale at £3,000, the tank costs £6,000, a rocket-shaped frame, *Open Fracture*, is £4,500 and *Spun Off*, a roundabout, is £5,000.

Her dangerous gym equipment is at the East International show of 25 young artists at the Norwich School of Art and Design, 13 July-5 September (01603 610561). *Spun Off* is at Alice, an exhibition of childhood at the Corner House, Manchester, 17 July-23 August (0161-228 7821).

JOHN WINDSOR

Whistleblowers are often ostracised and the stress can cause severe illness, from which many never recover. By Roger Dobson



Alison Taylor: 'The real problem was the stress you were under. It affected my health considerably and I think once you have that kind of chronic damage, you never recover'

Jola Williams

Sick to death of morals

BETTY MILLAR was once a healthy and well-paid computer manager in the NHS. Then she blew the whistle on overspending, lost her job, and descended into such a spiral of chronic ill health that she is now suing her former employers for the stress she suffered.

Whistleblower Alison Taylor, who put the spotlight on years of child abuse in North Wales, also became physically ill after she was sacked, while another social worker who complained about problems in her local authority has been unable to work for more than three years, after suffering a nervous breakdown.

Workers who report abuse, bullying and bad practice not only run the risk of being ostracised by fellow workers, victimised by managers, suspended and sacked, they can also suffer serious ill health.

Years of depression, anxiety, panic attacks and low self-esteem are common among those who have given up almost everything to raise the alarm, according to Dr Geoffrey Hunt, author of a new book on whistleblowing published today. They are also more likely to commit suicide and experience higher rates of disease, ranging from colitis to cancer.

Despite the popular image of the whistleblower as a folk hero, the reality is that it can be a deeply traumatic time for those social workers and others who want to pick up the pieces and carry on with their life.

"The whistleblower is caught in the middle—a hero to the public, and a troublemaker, even a deviant, to the organisation, and that takes its toll on their mental and physical health," says Dr Hunt, editor of *Whistleblowing in the Social Services* and director of the European

Centre for Professional Ethics at the University of East London.

He says that a large proportion of the 200 whistleblowers who belong to the pressure group Freedom to Care, which he also co-ordinates, have suffered ill health as a consequence of what they did.

"We now have plenty of evidence that whistleblowing affects health. When people are put under that kind of stress in highly charged atmospheres it can cause all kinds of illness," he says.

"Severe depression is pretty common, and we have people who have been diagnosed as having post traumatic stress disorder and who are receiving treatment for it. People lose weight, have panic attacks, and suffer with insomnia. We know, too, that the very high stress levels they experience are also predictors of physical disease," he says.

The health problems in whistleblowers such as Alison Taylor and Betty Millar are caused both by the stress of their situation, and the personal repercussions of their action, which often alienate them from people who were once colleagues and friends. Whistleblowing is still regarded by fellow workers and employers as sneaking or telling lies, and as evidence of disloyalty. And it is being forced out of the group that puts the most stress on whistleblowers, says Dr Jill Wilkinson, a psychologist at the University of Surrey.

"The need to belong is important for self-esteem and mental health. If it is a moral decision to blow the whistle rather than one of career enhancement or revenge, then it is going to lead to a conflict. We like to be members of groups, which give us crucial social support, which is

itself one of the most important indicators of how people cope with stressful situations," she said.

And social scientist Dr Keith Macdonald says that the pressure can become intense when the whistleblower goes against conformity: "People like doctors, social workers and police officers who go against the culture of these groups find themselves in highly stressed situations where people who were

once colleagues can be hostile towards them. They are challenging the establishment and they suddenly lose everything, the group support, career, job and so on."

Betty Millar traces her ill health back to when she was working in an NHS trust and was becoming increasingly concerned about an over-spend that was going on.

"I raised my concerns with internal audit, but they didn't do any

thing. A colleague complained about similar problems and resigned and then took the trust to a tribunal for constructive dismissal and won. I gave evidence at the tribunal and on the same day I was given my redundancy notice. I was told that management saw me as the enemy and wanted to keep me quiet.

"I didn't realise at the time what it was doing to me. People tell me I have changed. I have become more withdrawn. I cancel social things, I didn't go to a friend's wedding, for instance. I have been treated for depression and I have difficulty in getting motivated. I get very tired and every day it's like there is a battle going on inside me.

"You try to be positive and to keep going but it is very hard because it has such a major effect on your life. I have gone from having a very responsible job, and I loved my work very much, to working part-time and my salary is a third of what it was. I don't know if I will ever be able to work full-time again.

"Until all this happened I was healthy and happy and enjoying life. I did what I thought I was being paid to do, and I have lost everything. I took the trust to an industrial tribunal and they made a settlement out of court. I am now taking legal action against them for the stress that they caused me."

Former social worker Alison Taylor, now a novelist, also suffered ill health when she blew the whistle on child abuse in North Wales.

"I was sacked because I refused to ignore persistent and widespread allegations about the abuse of children in care. It was a time in my life that had a profound effect on my health," she says.

"I made myself unacceptable to employers and colleagues, some of

whom shared my disquiet, but I was the only one to break out, to commit professional suicide and I was labelled as a disruptive and deviant personality, just as children in care are labelled.

"The real health problem was the enormous stress you were under every day, every week and every month. There was the suspension, the uncertainty of it all, and knowing you had done nothing wrong but that the people who were the abusers were still out there unaffected.

"At the time I was the sole wage earner, so financially it was a pretty stressful and traumatic prospect. My son was then 10 and my daughter still at university and there was a mortgage. I realised things were going to get bad and it affected my health considerably and once you have that kind of chronic damage, I think you never recover from it.

"I have an arthritic condition, which is something to do with the immune system, and it affects the joints and the muscles. I suffer from very painful colitis which is triggered by stressful situations, and my insomnia has got worse.

"When I was working as a social worker I used to get a churning of the stomach when I saw somebody who I knew was an abuser. Ten years on, I still suffer from that conditioning. When I saw those same faces at the North Wales Abuse Tribunal, I had the same feeling.

Another social worker, who raised concerns about the way her report on the poor quality of care at a mother was providing was dealt with, describes how her life was turned upside down three years ago.

"I believe I suffered a nervous breakdown due to management's mishandling of the situation. As a re-

sult I was absent on full sick pay for six months, on half pay for the following six months, and I received no pay at all for the last six months," she says.

"One weekend I could go on no longer. I knew I could not cope with another day at work, and I collapsed at home on a Sunday as I faced the prospect of work the next day. I have not been to work since. I felt I was either intimidated, patronised or bribed to take early retirement on the grounds of ill health."

There are concerns that the long-term impact of whistleblowing on the health of those who have the courage to take action may deter others from doing the same.

Most worrying, given the apparent scale of the abuse problem in Britain, the book reports research among social workers which shows that many believe it has become more difficult for them to complain. Nearly eight out of 10 also want changes in the law to give more protection for whistleblowers.

While Britain's whistleblowers run the risks of dismissal, discrimination and ill health, their counterparts in America have enjoyed formal federal protection since 1989 and in some states victimisation of those who complain has been made illegal.

Whistleblowers, as Dr Hunt points out, are mostly motivated by wanting to put right something that they saw as being wrong. The tragedy is that only abusers prosper when the treatment of whistleblowers deters others who want to speak out.

'Whistleblowing in the Social Services' edited by Geoffrey Hunt, Arnold, £15.99, is published today.

GREAT WHISTLEBLOWERS OF OUR TIME



Clive Ponting, Sarah Tisdall and Helen Zeitlein

Senior civil servant Clive Ponting appeared in court in 1985 accused of breaking the Official Secrets Act by passing data about the sinking of the Belgrano to MP Tam Dalyell. He was acquitted and is now a lecturer and writer in Wales.

Foreign Office clerk Sarah Tisdall was jailed in 1984 for leaking a secret document about the arrival of cruise missiles. She admitted copying it while in a minister's office.

Former MI5 officer Cathy Lassiter in 1983 leaked information about the agency tactics against left-wing activists and CND to a television docu-

mentary crew. She left MI5 whereabouts now not known.

Dr Chris Chapman, a senior scientist at Leeds General Infirmary, lost his job after revealing scientific fraud in 1989.

Dr Helen Zeitlein, a consultant haematologist in Bromsgrove, left the NHS in 1990 after highlighting shortages of nurses. She now lives in mid Wales.

Peter Rayner lost his job at British Rail in 1991 after warning about safety.

He was chief operating manager on London Midland and said that privatisation might affect safety.

VITAL SIGNS

By JEREMY LAURANCE



MORE than half the population are ignorant of one of the most basic rules of first aid — to call an ambulance immediately if someone has a cardiac arrest.

A survey carried out for the British Heart Foundation found three-quarters believed that mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage could alone save a patient's life and many said that was what they would do first. The foundation last week launched a £1m appeal for defibrillators — machines that deliver an electric

shock which is necessary to re-start the heart. Mouth-to-mouth and heart massage can keep the patient's blood oxygenated until the defibrillator arrives but it cannot restart the heart.

MANY couples seeking fertility treatment consult the league tables published by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which give pregnancy and live birth rate for each test tube baby clinic. But the information may be less use-

ful than it seems. Experts who applied a new statistical technique to the data found only five of the 52 clinics could be confidently ranked in the top quarter and only one in the bottom quarter.

They say in the *British Medical Journal* that the high degree of uncertainty about the rankings suggests they should not be taken too seriously. The finding does not bode well for the Government's plans to include death rates in hospital league tables from next October.

A NEW medicine for high blood pressure and angina was withdrawn from sale around the world yesterday because of concern about the way it interacts with other drugs. Manufacturers Roche Products Ltd voluntarily decided to stop selling Posicor, which was launched last year and is marketed in 38 countries, including Britain.

Roche decided the complex precautions needed to avoid the drug interactions could not guarantee that patients would not be affected. The company said in a

statement: "As patient well-being is of highest priority to Roche, the company has preferred to voluntarily withdraw the compound from all markets."

THE number of suicides in the Irish Republic increased by 14 per cent last year to a total of 433 — and included eight children between the ages of eight and 14, according to figures released yesterday.

Most of the deaths were among the young and mid-

dle-aged, and the vast majority, 353, were men. Earlier this year, a government-appointed task force that investigated the growing number of suicides recommended better training and education for doctors and health professionals in recognising and treating those at risk and urged improved psychological counselling in schools.

LESS than half of children do the recommended

amount of exercise to stay fit and healthy, according to a survey published today. Children should spend at least 30 minutes a day and ideally seven hours a week in physical activity, but one in five does less than two hours a week.

The survey of 2,000 parents and their children carried out for Norwich Union Healthcare found that eight out of 10 parents think that physical exercise is as important as school work, but two in three believe children are less fit today than when they grew up.

هكذا من الأصل

Post-coital contraception can reduce unwanted pregnancies. But are there other health risks attached? By Heather Welford

Warning after the night before

Helen, from Newcastle, is 18 and currently in the middle of her A-levels. Two years ago, she had unprotected sex. "It was a mistake - I wouldn't let it happen these days. I knew I could get pills from the GP to prevent a pregnancy. He prescribed them, but he really glared at me and asked why on earth we hadn't used contraception. He made me feel like a little slapper."

It's experiences like these - not uncommon, according to health workers - that act as a disincentive to younger women seeking emergency contraception, "post-coital" contraception, or PC4 to give it its medical term.

Incorrectly tagged "the morning-after pill" by the media - in reality two lots of tablets are taken 12 hours apart, up to 72 hours after sex - the treatment is only available with a doctor's prescription. That could change if campaigners succeed in making it available over the pharmacy counter.

Currently, say the campaigners, a programme in operation in Washington State in the US demonstrates that pharmacists can be given the appropriate training. On Thursday, the Birth Control Trust hosts a meeting at the House of Commons opened by Dr Jenny Tongue, a LibDem MP who also has 30 years' work experience in family planning. "Anything that helps us reduce the appalling teenage pregnancy rate is worth considering," said Dr Tongue. She points out that with 9,000 pregnancies last year among under-16s, the UK has one of the highest rates in Europe.

Certainly, the pharmacists are in favour. Spokesperson for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Beverley Parkin, said the professional body could work on protocols for confidentiality, privacy, and GP referral. "Pharmacists are accessible when other sources of help aren't," Parkin said.

Yet Schering Health Care, manufacturers of the only product currently licensed for use as post-coital contraception, are reluctant to sanction its use off-prescription. "We've got no immediate plans to make an application for this," said Carole Graham, a spokesperson. "The issue is not as simple as some campaigners think. We have no data to support its safety outside medical control. The issue of liability - who is legally responsible if there is a claim for serious side-effects - has not been resolved."

However, the consensus among doctors is that PC4 is safe, said Ann

Furedi of the Birth Control Trust. "Schering are dragging their heels about this. The main contra-indication is with women who have current focal migraine, as there's a risk of stroke, but there's no evidence of harm otherwise, and no evidence that when it doesn't work, the foetus is damaged. In fact, the biggest risk is it's not always effective, so it couldn't replace regular contraception."

According to figures from the Trust, 99 per cent of women who take emergency contraception won't become pregnant - but the figure drops to 75 per cent when sex has taken place mid-cycle, at or around ovulation. Anyone taking emergency contraception needs to know where they can discuss longer-term alternatives.

But teenagers complain that young people's advice centres - often preferred to the GP or the family planning clinic - are not open frequently enough. Newcastle's Streetwise, for example, has only one evening opening a week. "It's mainly open when we're at school," said Helen. "And a friend of mine was told to come back in a couple of days when the doctor would be there - but by then it would have been too late." Smaller towns and rural areas may have nothing at all.

It's not just teenagers who might need emergency contraception, either Sarah Raynor, a senior nurse at London's Margaret Pyke Centre, says they have up to 60 women asking for emergency contraception on Monday mornings, and the majority of them are between 20 and 35. At Margaret Pyke, however, they don't have to be seen by a doctor. "Here, we've noticed a large increase in the uptake of PC4 in the last three years," says Sarah Raynor. "We have appropriately qualified and trained family planning nurses working to protocols validated by our local NHS Trust. So they can issue emergency contraception to clients within the guidelines, and ensure confidentiality and information on longer-term contraception methods."

Nurses are, say some experts, in an ideal position to issue PC4. Professor John Guillebaud of the Department of Family Planning and Reproductive Health at University College, London, would like to see school nurses, midwives and others given complete freedom to prescribe it. "There are 300,000 nurses in the UK, far more than doctors or pharmacists," he said. "Nurses can provide the necessary empathy, privacy and counselling more easily than pharmacists. I'd also support the idea of availability

in pharmacies, as long as women had privacy, if there were protocols for the way PC4 is issued, if women had a user-friendly leaflet with the product, and there was adequate follow-up contraception." He's sceptical of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's claim that 90 per cent of pharmacies can offer a "quiet area" for private consultation - "most of the chemist's shops I go into don't look suitable for this," he says. Leontia McLaughlin from Aldrie's peer training programme outside Glasgow, which trains young people to go into schools, clubs and colleges to teach sexual health, said teenagers are still embarrassed and under-confident about contraception. While she supports easier availability of contraception, she doesn't see it as the whole answer. "We still hear stories from embarrassed teens about going into the chemist's for condoms, and coming out with a pack of paper hankies instead." She felt it was important to raise confidence

levels so girls and boys can make an informed choice about sex. "Greater availability of PC4 would be a move forward," said Dr Diana Mansour, honorary secretary of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' Faculty of Family Planning. "but it's only scratching the surface. There are lifestyle and health issues here. Some teenagers are risk-takers.

You could have the contraceptives hanging from trees and they still wouldn't use them." She says that it's not until the first pregnancy scare that some teens are propelled into considering contraception. "I'd like to see much more effective health education - girls still have a poor idea of their own fertility, and don't know when they're most likely to

get pregnant. Social deprivation's a factor, too, and low self-esteem. Some girls want to get pregnant. It's what they feel they're born to."

Campaigning groups from the other end of the spectrum claim that extending the availability of emergency contraception will bring with it health risks and an increase in casual sex. "In our view, this isn't contraception, as it works by preventing implantation after fertilisation," said Josephine Quintavalle from the Group Comment on Reproductive Ethics. "Women don't always understand this. We're also concerned that it may have as yet undetermined effects on women's health."

"They've got a right to their moral views," said Ann Furedi, "but we feel they're dressing up a moral argument inside an erroneous medical one. Emergency contraception is safe - a lot safer than many other things our society is quite happy to have on sale without a prescription."

At her local family planning clinic, she had to wait for two hours for an appointment with a nurse to register, then there was another wait before she could see the doctor. "The appointment with the doctor was very awkward, as I could understand everything she was writing down: UPT (unprotected sexual intercourse) with a CMP (casual male partner)."

Imogen admits: "I was a little ashamed, but I resented the bullying tone of both the nurse and the doctor - surely they should have been glad that I wasn't going to risk an unwanted pregnancy."

Imogen believes that the pill shouldn't become available over the counter from pharmacists. "It is important that a girl see someone she can talk to. Perhaps a solution would be to allow nurses to prescribe PC4. The morning-after pill should be easily available, but girls should be well-informed before they take it."

Interviews by Sally Chatterton



'I'd hate to think of a teenager facing the red tape I did'

CAROL, a 33-year-old secretary from Scotland, had to resort to post-coital contraception after an accident with a condom. Rather than risk an unwanted pregnancy, Carol and her long-term partner decided she should seek emergency contraception.

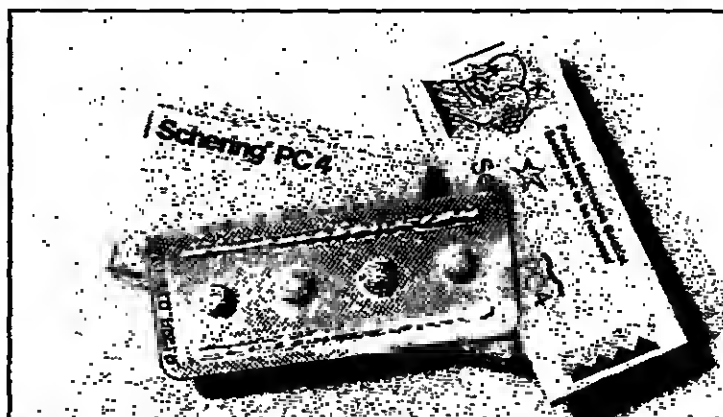
"Luckily I was aware that emergency contraception can be taken up to 72 hours after unprotected sex. As I was not working the day after the next, a Friday, I felt sure I would be able to pick up a prescription from Accident and Emergency."

It wasn't that easy. Her first call was the A&E department of her local hospital where she was told that, as it was not a bank holiday, no assistance could be provided and she should contact her GP. But there, she was told that there were no appointments available and she should try the family planning clinic. "The session had finished. Although the clinic was open for a full day on Monday, it was only open for a part of Friday."

Fortunately, the woman at the clinic was helpful and contacted the hospital, which still refused to help. The clinic then contacted Carol's GP and an appointment was secured for the end of evening surgery. It had been a six-hour trek.

Carol totally supports the move to make the morning-after pill, PC4, available from pharmacists: "The lack of assistance I received was disturbing. I would hate to think of a teenager facing the red tape I did."

IMOGEN was a single, 23-year-old medical student when she found herself in need of emergency contraception. She had spent a drunken evening out, and ended up going to bed with one of her friends. "My first concern was unwanted pregnancy. Even though we may not have had penetrative sex, I couldn't take the risk."



Why mobiles could be the Rolls Royce of disease

BRITAIN ON THE COUCH



OLIVER JAMES

If microwaving can bake raw potatoes, what would you expect it to do to the neurones in your skull?

HAVING RARE access to a first-class seat on a train the other day, I was unable to get a moment's peace from the incessant mobile phone chatter. "Okay, so you tell Jan to tell Terry that the meeting's on Friday... sorry, on Friday... no, tell Jan and Terry it's on Friday... hello? hello?" Tring, tring. "No, I was saying you should ring Jan... and so on, ad nauseam."

Until recently the strategy that a good friend of mine used to deal with this irritant was simply to ask the source to move, in a firm and direct manner. But very soon he will implement a new approach. Each morning he rushes to see if the postman has brought his new toy, a mobile phone zapper which causes a high-pitched squeal in the ear when pointed at a phone user.

My main worry about mobile phones, however, is not noise. It is that they may damage the brain, perhaps promoting brain cancer. As with all these health scares, in retrospect it seems common sense. If you deregulate without much

forethought and with scientific research priorities driven by profit, you should expect trouble.

It was, for example, easy for the tobacco industry to get away with deliberately raising nicotine levels in their products knowing that they will cause addiction and cancer. And was it altogether surprising that, after endlessly recycling sheep's brains containing scrapie, BSE broke out in cows? Or, after pouring organophosphates into the soil, that most of the population seems permanently under the weather, with weakened immune systems?

So you should not be surprised if microwaving the brain with a mobile turns out to be not a good idea. If microwaving can bake raw potatoes, what would you expect it to do to the neurones in your skull?

A recent Scandinavian study provides the strongest evidence so far. Mobile users are more prone to memory loss and headaches, and it may not be long before further research proves more malign outcomes, more than 10 years too late.

I have a mobile and it is extremely helpful to me during the periods when I am making TV programmes, living a peripatetic life. I remember when they first came into mass circulation, in the late 1980s, and I was sent off to do a psychological interview with a man who had already made his first million out of the product.

He was a troubled, somewhat lonely person who may have been drawn to this particular field by a strong desire to be able to be in touch at any moment. Certainly, he was not in touch with his own feelings. Nor did he seem to have many (or any) intimate relationships. His desire to be able to call and be called at any time, anywhere, reminded me of an insecure toddler who fears separation from its parents.

But whatever his deeper motives, there is no doubt he was on to a good thing. Even without the huge practical advantages the mobile phone can bring, the increasing insularity of our lives, as

more of us live alone, separated from spouses, children and intimates, means that more and more of us feel desperately lonely and want to be in contact.

Whilst some people only use the phones to achieve practical ends, many others use them to feel connected emotionally. As work increasingly replaces authentic intimacy, endless chatter on the phone, ostensibly about important work-related matters, is often used to bolster self-esteem and fill an inner emptiness. An unnecessary call to a colleague can make you feel powerful, popular, even loved. The fact that it may also be giving you brain cancer is something you would rather not think about, and the manufacturers are not about to encourage that thought.

When I first heard of this danger a couple of years ago, I rushed down to my local shop only to be told that there was nothing in it. But when I returned a month ago, they had changed the pitch. Advanced capitalism has an amazing capac-

ity to make money every which way, so now the line was that I needed a new phone (£299.99) which would send the microwaves away from my head. Luckily I had already researched the solution: a £39.99 earplug with microphone which enables you to speak and listen without having the phone next to your ear.

This saga reminds me of the reaction I first had to Aids when I heard about it in 1986: how vividly unfair that its method of transmission should particularly put at risk already marginalised groups like gays. Of course, many people at the time argued that this was common sense. If you use parts of the body for purposes that the Good Lord did not intend them, what can you expect?

But what I felt was that it was deeply unfair that the virus had not been transmitted by the leather on Rolls Royce seats or by champagne corks. It was pretty random that it happened to be the way it was.

The mobile phone may turn out to be that champagne cork/Rolls Royce leather disease and, ironically, if it does provoke an epidemic of brain cancer, the most at-risk groups will be the insecure and wealthy people who first latched on to them to keep loneliness and insignificance at bay.

Usually, the people to suffer the worst consequences of advanced capitalism's exploitation of our instincts (eg to eat, to have sex) and our weaknesses, are the poorest and most vulnerable. Could the mobile phone be the first exception to that rule?

If it is, my good friend - soon to wreak havoc with his zapper - will rejoice at the thought of train journeys and restaurants made more peaceable by the absence of the showy, insecure types most likely to die.

Oliver James's book *Britain on the Couch - Why We're Unhappier Compared With 1950 Despite Being Richer* is published by Century.

Zen monks believe that controlling your internal energy, or chi, can make you healthier and happier. By Clare Garner

Look into my eyes and feel the power of chi

Walking into a Chi Kung energy healing session, you might think you had stumbled into a Paul McKenna show. Everybody is in a trance-like state, with their eyes closed and their arms flailing. But the man in charge insists that he is not a hypnotist.

Sifu Tony Leung is the official UK representative of Shaolin monks. He runs the Temple School in Islington, north London, the only Shaolin Zen Buddhist temple in this country. At the temple - a thinly disguised underground car park - Sifu "powers up" as many as 40 people in an evening, using his electromagnetic energy. The concept may seem alien to us, but there is nothing new about Chi Kung: the Chinese have practised it for the past 4,500 years.

"Watch at first because it might freak you out," Sifu advised newcomers. Those who were familiar with Chi Kung went first, one at a time.

Sifu held their hands for a few seconds, told them to close their eyes, and then let go of them. He pointed his first and middle finger at the client's forehead and then stood in front of them for about 15 seconds.

No two reactions were the same.

Some staggered, some swayed, others threw their head forward and slapped their thighs. One man's arms flapped like a floppy-limbed puppet's, another man galloped on the spot as if he were playing ponies. Another man looked drunk, his knees giving way and his head lolling backwards and forwards. Someone grunted; someone else roared. A man at the front - one of the first to be "powered up" - curled up in the foetal position and cried. A young guy cavorted across the room, dancing, it seemed, with his shadow. And another spreadeagled his arms, rolling his eyeballs as if he had taken an overdose.

Indeed, it looked as if everyone had popped a pill half an hour earlier and the effects were just kicking in. But there were no drugs. Just the waft of pungent incense and Sifu's potent cosmic energy.

There are more than 300 Chi Kung styles practised in China. Their common aim is to boost and regulate an individual's yin and yang energy so that the body can become its own healer.

The theory is that if one's energy channels are unblocked, good health and longevity will naturally follow. Sifu himself is a walking advertisement. With his smooth, unblemished skin and thick head of jet

black hair he looks considerably younger than his 45 years. Those who attend Sifu's healing sessions suffer from an assortment of ailments, including migraine, arthritis, sciatica, rheumatism, multiple sclerosis, frozen shoulder and asthma. Some are simply stressed out.

Generally, they have drawn a blank with Western medicine. Kholy Shaker, 33, a banker, was waiting in line: "I'm just worried I'll go back to work after one of these sessions and I will do the wrong transaction," he joked. "I'm absolutely astounded by what I am seeing here. Someone is shouting and you feel like you're going to be assaulted."

When it came to my turn, I stepped forward and closed my eyes. As Sifu held my hands I felt a burning sensation shoot up my arms, and an electric shock seemed to twang in the centre of my forehead. "You can forget about work

now," said Sifu. My mind drifted off as it does with a pre-med, and my body relaxed. My limbs seemed to lengthen and felt hollow. I started moving and dancing, feeling uninhibited but in control.

After what felt like several hours, but was in fact 15 minutes, I decided to return to Mr Shaker. He looked shocked by what he had witnessed. "You looked like someone who is enjoying a rave party, singing without words," he exclaimed.

"You looked at peace with yourself, unaware of anything around you. Just happy. It takes about three ecstasy tablets to achieve that result!"

Sergit Kumar, 30, was diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis last August. Shortly afterwards he took the advice of his wife and signed up for a healing session with Sifu. "The first time I thought: 'This isn't me. It's not working for me.' But after a

couple of weeks I ran up the stairs. I was thinking: 'If that works that time there's something there'."

Mr Kumar started going for a two-hour session twice a week. Now the tingling sensation in his legs has gone and his walking is "slightly better". He has faith in Sifu but regards Chi Kung as an "ongoing treatment" rather than a miracle cure.

Therese Ne Win, a fourth-year medical student at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital, has followed Mr Kumar's progress at the Temple School. Mr Ne Win started out as a sceptic, but his own experience of a healing session blew his analytical medical mind.

He wrote a paper entitled: "A Medical View of Chi Kung" in which he describes the treatment for himself and Mr Kumar. He wrote: "When you start to move with no conscious thought, you realise that there is really something there after all."

He described Chi Kung as a "benign force" which had helped to heal an old sports injury of his. Sifu identified the clicking right shoulder and sent Chi into that part of Mr Ne Win's body. "I immediately had a feeling of real warmth and heat forming right inside the joint capsule... a few more sessions resulted in a much smoother action, eliminating much of the clicking," he wrote.

"It is easy to dismiss unfamiliar concepts such as Chi Kung as worthless Chinese black magic or mumbo jumbo," he continued. "We should all bring things into perspective and realise that tunnel vision will only prevent you from seeing the glories of the bigger picture."

He advocates practising Chi Kung as a preventative measure. "If your energy is strong enough, how can any illness befall you?" he asks.

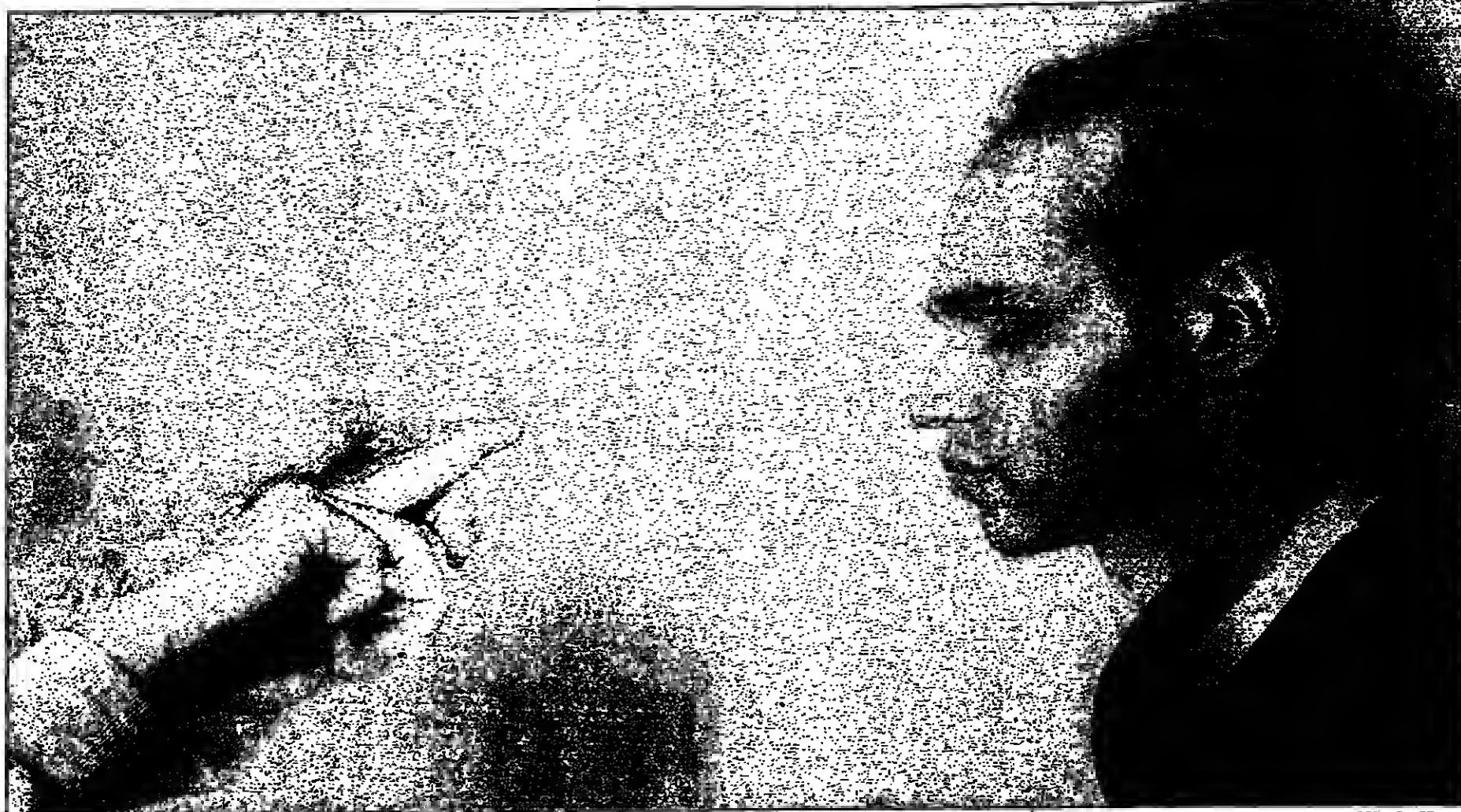
He believes Chi Kung can combat stress: "It places you in a state

of deep relaxation between full consciousness and sleep. The resultant change in brainwave activity and release of hormones helps to keep you in this state of total relaxation."

Regarding Mr Kumar, "every few lessons he seems to get better". But Ne Win also strikes a note of caution: "It is very dangerous, as well as foolhardy, to say that Chi Kung has cured him of MS because he is not 100 per cent cured."

"And, importantly, MS is characterised by relapse and subsequent remittance."

The most striking impact that Chi Kung has had on Mr Kumar, in Mr Ne Win's opinion, is that it altered his outlook on life: "Whereas before there was bleak depression, there now appears to be a new vigour and urge to get his life back on track. You really have to see him run up and down the stairs smiling to see the beneficial effects it has had."



Sergit Kumar receives the power of Chi Kung from Sifu Tony Leung at the Temple School in Islington

Nicola Kurtz

Last night a DJ ruined my life

THREE YEARS ago Steve Jones, 32, left a Manchester club with deafened hearing. At university he had gone to disc every week; at 29 he'd started clubbing again and found the noise level had increased significantly. "There's much more bass in dance music now. I think I accumulated hearing damage until that night in a club just pushed me over a threshold. I didn't have problems until I went there."

Since then, Steve has found it difficult to follow conversation in a noisy room, or to tell in which direction a phone is ringing. But it's the legacy of permanent tinnitus, or ringing in the ears, that bothers him most.

"It's a nasty noise like a spade scraping along the ground, and it's almost constant. When I got it, I felt angry and was frightened it would get

Clubbing can damage your hearing, warns Emma Houghton

worse until I jumped off a bridge or something."

Although for many years studies looking for a link between leisure noise and hearing loss produced mixed results, recently more sensitive acoustic tests have uncovered worrying evidence that Steve is just one of many such sufferers.

Research at Keele University picked those most and least exposed to entertainment noise amongst 15 to 23-year-olds. Even amongst the youngest, those most exposed to noise showed evidence of loss of hearing acuity. "In the older subjects there were also very sharp gaps in hearing in the high frequency range," says Ted Evans, Keele professor of auditory physiology and vice-

chair of the British Society of Audiology. For many years Evans has also performed tests on undergraduates' hearing function. "These results have got worse - 50 per cent of students picked at random show signs of hearing damage. Clubbing is the new ingredient on the scene, and people seem to be exposed for longer."

Research by Professor Adrian Davis at the Medical Research Council's Institute of Hearing Research found that the proportion of people exposed to high noise levels at clubs has increased substantially. In 1980-1984, six per cent of 18 to 25-year-olds received noise doses in clubs exceeding safety standards; by the mid-1990s that rose to 18 per cent.

Club music can often reach 110-120 decibels, yet even at 105 decibels, the safe maximum exposure time is 15 minutes. Mark Anderson, youth service project co-ordinator at the British Tinnitus Association, believes that in 10-20 years clubbing and hearing loss will emerge as a serious issue. Indeed, after he developed tinnitus himself following a loud concert, he became so concerned that he produced an education pack warning of the dangers of loud music.

What seems certain is that young clubbers are storing up trouble for the future. "There is a big question over what will happen in 20 years' time when normal ageing adds to hearing loss," says Professor Evans.

For Steve Jones the damage has already been done, and although treatment has helped him cope, he has had to alter his lifestyle. "At work I've had to ask colleagues not to drop things or slam doors, and find out about fire drills beforehand. But my biggest change is not to go to clubs or concerts. I can't even go to the cinema or to the pub at night. They're just too noisy."

Advice for clubbers

- Get away from the music for 10 minutes every hour, to give the inner ear hair cells the chance to recover.
- Keep as far away from the speakers as possible.
- Earplugs will keep potential damage to a minimum.
- Go clubbing less often, and for shorter periods.
- Be extra careful if hearing loss runs in your family.



Even 15 minutes in a noisy club can lead to permanent ear damage Craig Easton

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

No. 002880 of 1998

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, CHANCERY DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF HOLDINGS plc AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 20th May 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share premium account of the above named Company by the cancellation of an amount equal to £9,433,857 standing to the credit of the share premium account.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on 17th June 1998. Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for confirmation of the said reduction of the share premium account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 9th day of June 1998.
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Announcements

THE GOVERNORS of the Yehudi Menuhin School are pleased to announce the appointment of Malcolm Singer as Director of Music from September 1998. Malcolm Singer is currently Professor of Composition at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

To advertise in this section please call the Classified Team on 0171 293 2347.

SICK NOTES

BY WILLIAM HARTSTON

THE ECONOMIC crisis in Indonesia has hit hospitals badly, not least because many patients have been fleeing from their beds before their treatment is finished in order to avoid paying the bill.

Cipto Mangunkusumo, the largest hospital in Jakarta, lost 355 patients in this manner in the last three months of 1997. "They escaped on average two days before they terminated the treatment," a spokesman said.

RESEARCHERS at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, have found that about half the aphrodisiacs on sale in herbal medicine stores in Thailand, Hong Kong, China and North America do not contain the ingredients they claim. "They're selling penises under one name and in fact the source is something different," Professor Bradley White was quoted as saying.

While seal penis is traditionally regarded as an aphrodisiac (though there is no scientific evidence),

fakes have been found to be made from genitalia of dogs and hulls.

A RESEARCHER at the Ohio State University College of Medicine has called for a ban on the sale of trampolines for home use after an analysis of government statistics on trampoline accidents.

In 1995, American hospital emergency departments treated 58,500 children injured on trampolines, compared with 29,600 in 1990.

A REPORT in the current issue of the journal *The Physician and Sports Medicine* reveals that bungee-jumping is safer than had previously been thought. In the first wide-ranging look at injuries in this activity, Dr Craig C Young and his team found that 42 jumpers had a total of 59 minor medical complaints, but all the injuries healed within a week, except for lacerations to one jumper

who changed his mind and tried to grab the platform on his way down. A total of 200 hungee-jumpers took part in the study.

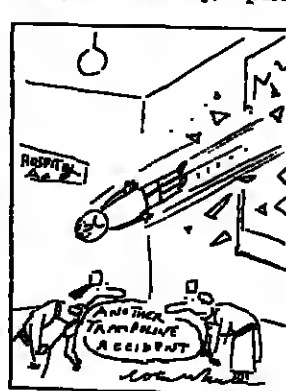
A PAPER delivered at a meeting of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons has identified a complaint that may be ranked alongside tennis elbow, jogger's nipple and runner's knee: it is golfer's spine. Using high-speed cameras to record the swings of 43 healthy, experi-

enced male golfers, researchers were able to identify deformation of the discs in the spine.

Meanwhile, Japanese experts have performed X-ray and CAT scans of 26 male golfers and compared them with non-golfers.

The results confirm that golfing can damage the spine - but it is more likely to do so with modern steel shafts (which require more spine-twisting for optimal results) than old-fashioned hickory clubs.

ACCORDING TO a study published earlier this year in the *Journal of Applied Social Change*, lawyers in general do not have especially high levels of testosterone, but trial lawyers average about 30 per cent higher rates of the male sex hormone than lawyers who stay out of the courtroom. High levels of testosterone are generally associated with dominance, persistence and focused attention, as well as anti-social behaviour and competitiveness. The results applied to male and female lawyers.



كلذا من الأصل

MEDIA

Why the 'Observer' isn't working

It is a long time since the 'Observer' hit the magic circulation figure of a million. Now it must face the prospect of dipping below the tragic figure of 400,000. By Peter Cole

It is five years since the *Guardian* agreed to purchase the *Observer* from Tiny Rowland's Lorrho group. Five years of high ambition, too many editors, much internal angst - and falling circulation. In the five years of *Guardian* ownership it has lost some 20 per cent of sale, down from 500,000 to 400,000. It has also cost the *Guardian* a great deal of money - £26m to buy it in the first place, regular losses of £8m or £9m a year since then and, in all, towards £70m over the five years.

Last Sunday's edition of the paper proudly announced that the *Observer* was "the only quality Sunday newspaper currently to show a rise in its readership". There's a certain desperation in putting a six-month rise of 0.8 per cent on the front page, but you have to take comfort where you can, even from a statistic commonly exploited by those to whom circulation figures do not give the same opportunity. When the audited circulation figures are published later this week, it is believed that the 207-year-old Sunday paper will be even closer to the 400,000 threshold, and that nothing will prevent it dropping below that.

The *Observer* in the '300s' is the newspaper equivalent of Manchester City in the second division. A great club fallen on bad times; the long climb back a hard one. As always with newspaper circulations some perspective is needed. Aggregate newspaper sales figures are not what they were, but that does not mean that all sectors of the market are in decline. The Sunday broadsheet market is not. When the *Guardian* Media Group bought the *Observer* in 1993 the four titles in the Sunday "quality" market - the *Sunday Times*, the *Sunday Telegraph*, the *Independent on Sunday* and the *Observer* - were together selling some 2.692 million copies, of which the *Observer* accounted for some 19 per cent. Today, the same four titles are selling 2.880 million copies, the *Observer* about 14 per cent of them. So the size of the market place cannot be blamed. It has grown by nearly 200,000 copies, and still the *Observer* has managed to sell 100,000 fewer.

So we have an enlarging sector of the market with the most venerable title doing badly. Who is doing well? Not the *Independent on Sunday*, which has also lost sales in the five-year period we are considering. It follows then that the other two titles have enjoyed considerable success. The *Sunday Times*, consistently the dominant player, has powered on, up 120,000 or so on five years ago. The most impressive circulation growth has come from the *Sunday Telegraph*, up about 250,000 over the five-year period.

The marriage of *Guardian* and *Observer* appeared, on the face of it, to be a natural one. Both papers appealed to a predominantly middle-class, intellectual, left-of-centre audience.



The *Guardian* saw great potential for economies of scale, for shared infrastructure between daily and newly acquired Sunday, and this has been realised. Unlike the *Independent* and the *Daily Telegraph* (for a short period), the *Guardian* never felt tempted by seven-day publication - though there were gestures in this direction. *Guardian* staff were appointed to responsible positions on the *Observer*. Foreign correspondents serviced both papers. Most significantly, the *Guardian*'s editor, then Peter Preston, was editor-in-chief of both titles. Alan Rusbridger, who became *Guardian* editor in 1995, soon acquired a similar role. Preston had been responsible

for the Scott Trust for the appointment of the first two *Observer* editors after the takeover - Jonathan Fenby and Andrew Jaspán. Rusbridger delivered the third, Will Hutton. Two editors in three years, three in five. Now Hutton, in charge of policy and opinion, is supported by Jocelyn Targett, *de facto* operational editor. Internal argument between the two titles has not helped, either. Editors have complained in public; *Guardian* staff speak freely of their resentment at the drain on "their" resources of the *Observer*. *Guardian* staff are moved to the *Observer*, and often return. There is none of the consistency of editorial management

that successful rivals in the sector demonstrate. In dismantling "old" *Observer* culture, the new management has not yet created a new one. Caroline McCall, commercial director of the *Guardian* and the *Observer*, told a recent Guild of Editors conference: "When the *Guardian* acquired the *Observer* it underestimated how big the job was. It was a newspaper that had been in decline for 15 to 20 years. The Sunday market is a really difficult market. Readers' perceptions of the brand are taking a long time to shift. The *Observer* is (now) a much better paper... But its circulation figures do not reflect its quality."

Circulation figures seldom reflect the quality of the product, certainly not in the eyes of those responsible for it. McCall is right to say that the Sunday market is difficult. Here are some of the difficulties. First the traditional ones: little news tends to happen on Saturdays. Sunday is a different kind of day. Readers look for a different kind of paper. And the modern ones: Saturday newspapers used to be the flimsiest and the lowest sellers of the week. Now the broadsheets have similar bulk to the Sunday papers, and are significantly cheaper; similar content; better value. Sunday newspapers used to have a monopoly on live sport. Now a significant amount of Premiership football and other big

Saturday staples that are multi-section quasi-Sunday papers selling much more cheaply than their Sunday counterparts.

Interestingly, the two successful titles are Conservative newspapers that have flirted less with New Labour than most nationals, while the *Observer* is left of centre and has never supported the Tories. Concentrating on the *Observer*, how can it be that over the past decade, which witnessed the end of Thatcherism, the internecine divisions of the Major government, and the rise and success of New Labour, the newspaper that had so much to exploit, so much to gain, has done badly?

Quite simply, it did not know its readers. Worse, it thought it did. The consistent triumph of the *Guardian*, and the reason that, against all the odds, the *Times* price-cutting and the *Telegraph* give-aways had almost zero effect on circulation, was that the paper knew its immensely loyal readers so well. It has impressively developed a distinctive "brand" that permeates every aspect of its activities. While the Eighties should have presented the *Observer* with all the opportunities of opposition critique, it was unable to take on board the popularity of Thatcherism or the necessity for old Labour to change its agenda.

And when it seemed to catch up, by appointing the then guru of the chattering classes, Will Hutton, as its third editor in as many years, it failed to realise that New Labour had moved on again. New Labour was happy to use the chattering classes in the short term, to ensure coverage for their "project", to reinforce the message that the only worthwhile debate was taking place around them. But once they had power, the chatters were discarded in favour of "the people".

And what the *Observer* failed to realise was that you need a lot more readers than chatters, and that readers, even of the *Observer*, are interested in much more than politics. Trouble is, when the *Observer* isn't earnestly political it's just earnest. And when it isn't just earnest, as when it's dealing with lighter issues such as Ginger Spice and Dodi's dad, it's loftily earnest. While full of good things, it lacks the conviction the *Guardian* has when dealing with the less important things.

It could learn a lot from the *Sunday Times*, not in terms of the opinions it represents, but in its recognition that it doesn't need to represent those interests all the time. Trouble is, it hates the *Sunday Times* so much that it can't bear to look at it. If it looked at it, it could still hate it, but it could discover how much there is to the mix - to the in-consequential, to not having attitude about everything, to Sunday.

Peter Cole is professor of journalism at the University of Central Lancashire.

Just give them the facts

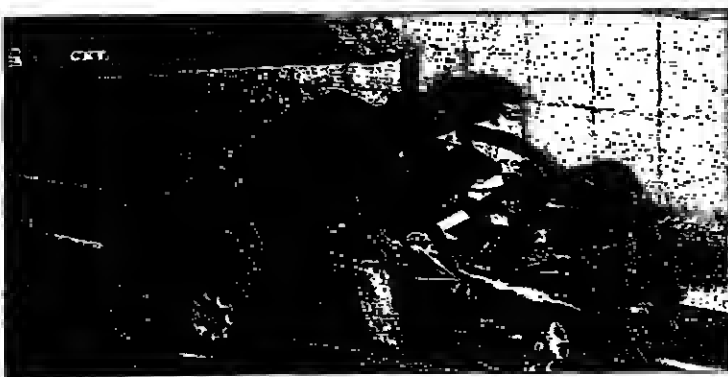
ANALYSIS

The Diana effect has revived the fortunes of the TV documentary. By Paul McCann

IT IS a truism hardly worth stating that Diana, Princess of Wales, was and is worth cold hard cash to the media. She sold magazines, newspapers and now it appears she can even help the more lofty world of current affairs television.

Last week's ITV programme on that crash (Diana: the Secrets behind the Crash) may have attracted a universal panning from critics and commentators for its reliance on the theories of Mohamed Al Fayed, but it also attracted an audience. The 9pm documentary and discussion hour attracted an average 13 million viewers according to unofficial overnight BARB ratings. This gave ITV a 58 per cent share of the available audience, which is more than respectable for that slot on the commercial broadcaster.

The obvious logic is that the populist nature of this particular programme gave it the ratings it did and that otherwise current affairs would fail in that slot. Certainly the orthodoxy of the former ITV programming director Marcus Plantin was that the only thing to put on at 9pm was drama, drama and more drama. To squeeze past this mindset,



Mr Plantin's requirement seemed to be that factual programmes had to be about sex, crime or the paranormal. Which would explain the *Hollywood Women* style of factual programming. Current affairs, however, is solidly banished to after News at Ten. Here, worthy programming - like a John Pilger Network First - can safely be aired to satisfy the requirements of the Independent Television Commission.

Yet once upon a time ITV did schedule meaty current affairs at 9pm and, according to the guru of BARB ratings, the researcher and television historian William Phillips, they regularly achieved ratings of around 10 million. According to Phillips, the Diana programme's figure is not that exceptional.

And even in the 10.40pm slot there is a strong appetite for factual shows. ITV recently attracted 7 million viewers to *Savage Sites*, its proper science documentary about the weather. At 9pm this programme could easily have managed an audience of 12 million.

The kicking that ITV has received from advertisers because of its ageing, down-market audience prompted the management changes of last year that brought in a new chief executive and programming director in David Liddiment. His desire to attract more ABC1 viewers has already resulted in the continuing search for a peak-time one-hour, current affairs programme. If ITV decides against moving News at Ten, and therefore cannot put the new show in that slot, it will most probably run at 9pm.

Of course the Diana effect was still felt for ITV. This is easily illustrated because the story of the Princess's death did similar things for Channel 4's *Dispatches* last week.

A much more hard-headed programme, *Dispatches* pulled apart the conspiracy theories aired by ITV and pulled in nearly 5 million viewers. The programme's weight means it usually achieves under 2 million viewers - even *Cutting Edge* can normally pull in three to four million.

WORRIES that the Sun's deputy editor, Rebekah Wade, would inject too much cuddly female influence on the paper have been dispelled by the outgoing editor Stuart Higgins. He was forced to pull her choice of headline for the story about deaths linked to the impotence drug Viagra. The sensitive young lady wanted to run with "Die Hard". For the George Michael public lavatories story she proposed "Under a wrist".

Higgins told the stories during a speech at Wade's 30th birthday bash at the Belvedere restaurant, in Holland Park, west London, attended by such tabloid glitterati as Alan Rusbridger of the *Guardian* and Peter Stothard of the *Times*. The rest of the speech was very waspish, about the need for long experience of the paper. Higgins, it was assumed, was trying to save his job from Wade, who has only been on the paper a few months. He had the wrong target, however, as the new Sun editor, David Yelland, was also at the party, sitting quietly in a corner having been flown in at News International's expense.

BBC NEWS management's hot new idea for its journalists is to group them together in their mammoth new Television Centre newsroom in clusters according to their specialism: science, education, legal, etc. Media, arts, and, for some reason, royal correspondents have been officially gathered into the "culture cluster", which, while it sounds like something to do with

Sellafeld, is an improvement on the *Sunday Times*' nickname for its fluffy types: the shallow end.

MOVE OVER Hello! - the curse of Channel 4 is upon us. It might be the vogue to blame a red-haired Virgin DJ for the relative tragedies of Gazza and Geri Spice, but in fact a far more malevolent force is at the root of all this distress. C4 decided around a month ago to schedule Gazza's Coming Home, a documentary about his years at Rangers, as a pre-World Cup repeat. Cue Gazza's defection. For the double whammy, the unusual decision was taken two weeks ago to repeat TFI Friday's Spice Girls special just as, you guessed it, Geri quit. Warning to all celebrities: do not allow yourself to be "featured" by C4, pursue photo shoots in Hello! at will.

THE self-effacing *Guardian* is

considering plans to set up a museum devoted to journalism that will present "hacks as heroes". Whether it will contain heroic cod faxes and lunch receipts paid for heroically by the KGB is yet to be decided, but, given the high esteem journalists are held in by the public, the mind boggles at who would pay to see a slightly elaborate cuttings library. The *Daily Mail*'s Lord Rothermere is said to have a similar plan, so let's hope that museum includes a free and frank appraisal of the 1922 Zinoviev letter.

BODDINGTONS is to sponsor Skinner and Baddiel's Fantasy World Cup programme on ITV. The boys are about to find the commercial world a tougher place than the BBC, from where they were poached. The two comedians used to spend much time on screen swigging bottles of Becks, the definitive Nineties lager. Becks is made

by Scottish Courage, while Boddingtons is made by Whitbread. ITC rules will probably stop the two comedians being forced to drink the cream of Manchester. But don't look too hard for the bottles of Becks to make an appearance.

A SERIES of hectic job changes of late have clearly had a negative effect on the appearance of Andrew Marr, one-time editor of this organ. His new column for the *Observer* this week was featured on the top of the front page in early editions alongside a picture of Keith Flint of the Prodigy. Keith's opinions on weighty issues like the single currency have never been revealed, so his column would have been worth reading. Mr Marr however was widely known for his bizarre haircuts and the black rings under his eyes, so the picture wasn't that big a surprise.

SOME confusion remains about the reason for the Mail on Sunday's front-page apology to Brooke Shields last week. The paper's editor, Jonathan Holborow, insists it was his personal decision to break with newspaper tradition and match the space given to the original story.

However an article in yesterday's *Guardian* claims it was part of Shields' lawyers' demands. Whether the front-page apology catches on in future may depend on whether it truly was a piece of one-off editorial largesse or won by the hard-nosed libel expert Keith Schilling.



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Julie Welch, the doyenne of female football reporters. 'There were a lot of dinosaurs [when I started], and there are a lot of dinosaurs now'

Mike King

Women are calling the shots in the commentary box. Naomi Marks meets football's female elite

For Scottish football fans following their team's fortunes in France on BBC radio and television, the main World Cup low-downs, updates, match reports and analysis will be delivered by one of two women. Hazel Irvine will be reporting from the Scottish camp for the BBC network, with Rhona McLeod doing the same for BBC Scotland.

The BBC's head of sport, Bob Shennan, is keen to employ women sports broadcasters. He refers to those such as Irvine and McLeod as pioneers. And, no doubt alert to the commercial risks of alienating the growing ranks of female football fans, he speaks of "the danger of presenting sport to the public through 28-year-old white middle-class men called Peter".

Yet for McLeod, who will be reporting from a World Cup for the first time, it was very nearly not to be. A lover of sport since childhood, she first suggested that she might report on a football match while working for one of the Scottish Sundays. Her editor was delighted; it was about time football was covered from the woman's perspective, he said. Could she look at the catering arrangements? Perhaps talk about the toilets, too?

Not so delighted, McLeod opted instead for a subbing post on the sports desk, leaving match reports to male colleagues. She explains: "If I wasn't going to be able to do the job properly, then I wasn't going to do it at all." Such anecdotes illustrate the difficulties faced by women wanting to enter football journalism. Still very much in the minority in both broadcasting and print, they appear to encounter resistance neither from those in the sports industry nor from the punters.

This is something McLeod discovered when she finally got her chance to move



KATE BATTERSBY
Her presence in the press-box prompted a stinging letter in which a senior journalist complained that 'no woman ought to be allowed to write about sport'



RHONA McLEOD
'The players are brilliant to deal with, the managers are fine. The only problem is other journalists who don't like the idea of a woman doing the job'



ELEANOR OLDROYD
A sports presenter on Radio 5 Live, she believes that the world of broadcasting is more welcoming to women than that of print journalism

away from the desk and into the arena three years ago. "The players are brilliant to deal with, the managers are fine. The only problem is other journalists who don't like the idea of a woman doing the job."

Female sports journalists tend to be columnists, the world of the press-box being a fiercely macho place. McLeod's response has been to make sure she is twice as knowledgeable about her subject as her male counterparts. "Research, research, research," she says. "People will always look for weaknesses."

But the Radio 5 Live sports presenter Eleanor Oldroyd insists that the world of broadcasting is more welcoming to women than is the world of print. She points to a recent incident in which her colleague, the 5 Live Breakfast Programme presenter

Jane Garvey, was taken to task by a (male) national newspaper reporter in La Manga, the Spanish resort where the England team has been in training - for having the temerity to suggest that press conference questioning of the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, had been anodyne.

Certainly the doyenne of football reporting, Julie Welch, agrees with Oldroyd that print journalists have some way to go before collecting any medals in right-onism.

Welch covered her first football match 25 years ago for the Observer. It was Coventry v Spurs ("You always remember the first, don't you?") and, although she encountered resistance from some other journalists, she reported the sport that she is passionate about for the next 12 years, at

which point she gave up, swearing that she would never return to the press box. But three years ago she did. "Huge parts of me enjoyed it enormously," she says. "Another part saw all those ghastly, snarling men I'd seen in 1973, still hating women, and I thought: 'I don't want to do this'."

"There were a lot of dinosaurs then, and there are a lot of dinosaurs now," Welch will be covering France 96, however, but from home, as armchair critic for the Sunday Telegraph.

Kate Battersby, one of a handful of thirty-something women who have, since Welch, succeeded in infiltrating national newspaper sports departments, will be in France. Chief sports writer for the Evening Standard, she says only once in the dozens of matches that she has covered has there

being another female journalist in the press box with her. Objections to her presence are rare, she adds, but when they come they are vociferous.

One senior journalist wrote to her first sports editor, saying: "No woman should be allowed to write about sport because everything they say about the subject is a deluge of piss."

She shrugs off such blatant bigotry, but remains irritated by letters congratulating her for putting across a women's point of view. "That amazes me because all women are seen to have one lumpy view. Men, of course, are allowed to have individual points of view."

The Sun football reporter Vikki Orville also dislikes being labelled. "You just have to be able to do the job," she says.

She points out that she has encountered little discrimination (though as a journalism student she was accused of having her father/brother/boyfriend write the match report that she handed in as a Christmas project). In any case, Orville says, any woman who has negotiated the macho atmosphere of a newsroom has been well trained for the sports department.

Like Welch, she too remembers the first match she reported. It was Arsenal v Norwich, after she had persuaded the sports editor at the Daily Mail, where she was a news reporter, that she was serious enough about sport to handle it.

"People often say I must be hard," she says. "But I've just always loved football."

Not elevated enough yet to have her pick of the crop when it comes to choosing which matches she reports, she has just one game to cover in the coming football fest. Only England v Colombia will be hers.

But is she looking forward to it? "Oh yes," she enthuses. "This is a dream job. It's wonderful."

TRIAL BY MEDIA

IN WHICH DANIEL TOPOLSKI, FORMER COACH OF OXFORD'S BOAT RACE CREW, IS IMMERSSED IN ROWING MAGAZINES

LOOK FOR a magazine on rowing amid the plethora of men's journals at your newsagents and you'll be disappointed. Golf, football, angling, bikers, health, laddish lifestyle and sex, no problem. Minority sports? Forget it. So it's strictly subscription-only specialist monthlies.

For most people, rowing is the Boat Race, Henley and Steve Redgrave. But for 30,000 British men and women rowers the groan is, "What about us?" Try 30 times that number in over a hundred countries and you have a gap in the market crying out to be filled.

The specialist magazines, all they've got, are filled with the eccentric, the medical, the sports-political and the ego-driven gossip. Training hints jostle with results tables from obscure regattas mixed in with those from international events and ads for 85-kilo racing boats, oars, riggers and heart-rate monitors. The letters pages, though, are a joy, full of bitter arguments over the minutiae of the sport.

Compared to the men's health and fitness magazines, which focus on sex, muscle-building and diet - "Get lean, get serious, get a bigger chest", "Fat loss in a bottle", "Maximise your sexual performance" - the specialist mag makes solemn reading.



Daniel Topolski: finds few laughs in specialist mags

Not many laughs. Yet the fitness mags praise rowing as the all-round aerobic sport.

Regatta magazine, the voice of the Amateur Rowing Association, has a captive readership. Rowers get it free with their obligatory registration fee to the ARA. Without it they're not allowed to compete.

Regatta has elbowed aside the less glossy Rowing, which for 50 years was the only source of news about the sport apart from broadsheet coverage of big events. Filariouly ungrammatical editorials and hopeless spelling distracted readers from the message, but it was an authentic voice from the riverbank. It is now deceased, victim of a quaint but effective price-cutting war. Who needs two rowing mags when one is "free"?

The German Rudersport is, as you'd expect, fact-focused, and America's the Oarsman carries long rambling essays. Edward English, a Californian-based aficionado, produces a fat handbook of world-wide news cuttings twice yearly.

But let's face it, none of these is going to give the editor of Men's Health any sleepless nights.

The standards police should act with less speed, more taste

broadcasting standards commission

The guardians of broadcasting standards presume that the majority view should rule. Jaclyn Moriarty begs to differ

THE BROADCASTING Standards Commission was established on April Fool's Day last year. Its brief: to produce codes of practice, to do research, and to adjudicate on complaints, in relation to "standards" and "fairness". "Standards" means violence, sex, taste and decency; "fairness" means unjust or unfair treatment, or privacy infringements.

Last week it released a new set of guidance codes for broadcasters, meant to take on board changes in public tastes. But even as it is trying to update itself, the question to be addressed is: should it exist at all?

Two weeks ago, the commission censured the cooking show *TV Dinners* for its placenta-eating episode - and made headline news. The commission has also agreed with audience protests that related to: levitating tea towels (offensive to re-

ligious believers), jokes about necrophilia and bestiality ("unacceptable") and humour about children and drug abuse ("inappropriate to treat this subject in such a light-hearted manner"). A drama in which shoplifting teenagers gloat about their crime was denounced, since this "could have sent an inappropriate message to youngsters". *Natural Born Killers* - a film about serial killers, which parodies media violence - featured violence verging "on the mindless" and presented unfortunate "role models".

The commission also rejects complaints. One about a lesbian kiss on a Welsh soap opera was not upheld - because it was not a lingering kiss, and the audience had been well prepared. A complaint about the broadcast of a sex quiz early on the day of Diana, Princess of Wales's death, was

not upheld - because the broadcasters hadn't known of her death.

The Watershed often pops up in the commission's decision-making, and complaints about programmes broadcast after 9pm are often rejected. But a programme on between 11pm and midnight on New Year's Eve received a wrist-slapping for jokey references to sex with pop stars, pregnant women and homosexuals, because "families expected to be able to watch television together to see in the New Year".

Looking over such decisions, a few basic rules emerge: humour is unacceptable if it is religious, touches on taboos like bestiality, or raises serious issues like drug abuse. Drama must provide appropriate moral messages (shoplift and you're finished) and suitable role models (serial killers won't do). Lesbian af-

fection has to snuggle its way into a middle-of-the-road position, somewhere between too leisurely and too abrupt. Once news of a shocking national event is out, its media monopoly is compulsory. Children must not be allowed to know that pregnant women, homosexuals and (oddy) pop stars have sexual intercourse.

If such a body should exist, then it's too easy to pick and choose amongst decisions, and find things that seem ridiculous. But maybe it should not exist at all. What has become of "freedom of expression" when one small body is deciding what we can and cannot see and hear? The commission would respond that it is not one small body, but the public deciding what the public see and hear. It reacts to "public" complaints, and it informs its reaction with research into "public"

attitudes. It upheld a complaint about Madonna using the word "Motherfucker", because research suggested that people rank this among the wickedest swear words.

But public opinion is not really what freedom of speech is about. It's meant to be about dissent, about breaching conventions, taking risks, shocking, and being in the minority. If the majority decide what we can say and hear, free speech is doomed.

We'd never put up with the "public" deciding what rude words we can read in our books, but we allow control like that over broadcasting. Unlike books, though, broadcasting frequencies are scarce and decisions must be made about what is broadcast - so why shouldn't the majority decide? Unlike books, broadcasting leaps into the family home in a way that is difficult to control. If

something "harmful" springs on to the screen, the harm may be done before anybody can flick the switch.

Violence and pornography on TV or radio may well be harmful to children, although the evidence is inconclusive. No such argument can be made in relation to taste. Much of childhood is spent wallowing in far more tasteless jokes than anything a TV producer could dream up.

The question of what is in good enough taste for us to watch (or what tastes good enough for us to watch being tasted) should be left to the remote control. At best the placenta-eating episode was a fascinating insight into minority culture. At worst, it was just plain silly - as are so many April Fool's jokes.

The writer is a researcher in media law at Cambridge University.

IF I RULED THE AIRWAVES

IN WHICH INDEPENDENT PRODUCER MICK PILSWORTH HAS HIS OWN WAY WITH THE TV SCHEDULE

SUCCESSFUL sitcoms attract huge loyal audiences, but untested sitcoms remain the riskiest genre for broadcasters and producers alike. The problem is that the very feature which pulls in big audiences, the attractiveness of the characters, is extraordinarily difficult to communicate within the first or "pilot" episode. We don't know the characters and we have to know the characters to understand the jokes. It's comedy's Catch-22. Many series take years to catch on. Recent "slow burns" include *Last of the Summer Wine*, *Men Behaving Badly* and *One Foot in the Grave*.

For a sitcom pilot to hit its target immediately is very rare. My theme night would feature those first episodes which not only achieved high ratings, but also ran for years. A good sitcom pilot has to have a great "hook" - an intriguing situation which sets up a strong plot and sets the

premise and the added advantage of a well-known character. Mary Tyler Moore had already been in a hit sitcom, *The Dick van Dyke Show*, for many years and her character in her own show was an evolution of her character in van Dyke's.

Newly single, she moves from New York to Minneapolis, to a new job in an all-male local TV newsroom, headed up by a patriarchal Lou Grant. The conflict between the liberated young cosmopolitan career woman and the misogynistic middle-aged provincial news chief provides plenty of conflict in the office scenes. The writers also created conflict in the domestic scenes by having Mary attempt to move into an apartment which turned out to be occupied by someone else.

The Likely Lads, written by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais, was another classic pilot episode. The conflict in this series was based, unusually, on the internal conflict within Ian La Frenais' own psyche: the character of Bob in the show was the aspiring middle-class boy that La Frenais' mother wanted him to be, whilst Terry was the solid working-class lad that Ian imagined himself to be.

Birds of a Feather, written by Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran, kicked off with one of the slickest pilot episodes ever written. It featured a bank robbery which went wrong, a car chase, a separation, the discovery by the sisters Sharon and Tracey that their husbands were bank robbers, a sex toys party, and a climactic courtroom scene in which the husbands were sent down for seven years.

It achieved an audience of 13 million, one of the highest ever ratings for a sitcom pilot, and is still on the air 90 episodes later.

My other choices, *Drop the Dead Donkey*, *Porridge* and *I Love Lucy*, also show that by hitting the zeitgeist, building in plenty of conflict and creating strong, clearly defined characters, writers can overcome the sitcom Catch-22. But then not many writers can do it. Those who can, and are prepared to live in a mansion in Bel Air, earn upwards of \$1m a year. It's a tough job... a really tough job.

Mick Pilsworth is Chief Executive of independent production company Chrysalis Visual Entertainment. He is executive producer of a new ITV sitcom, *Babes in the Wood*.

characters against each other. Each line of dialogue has to do three jobs: it must advance the plot, give us background to the character, and at the same time be funny.

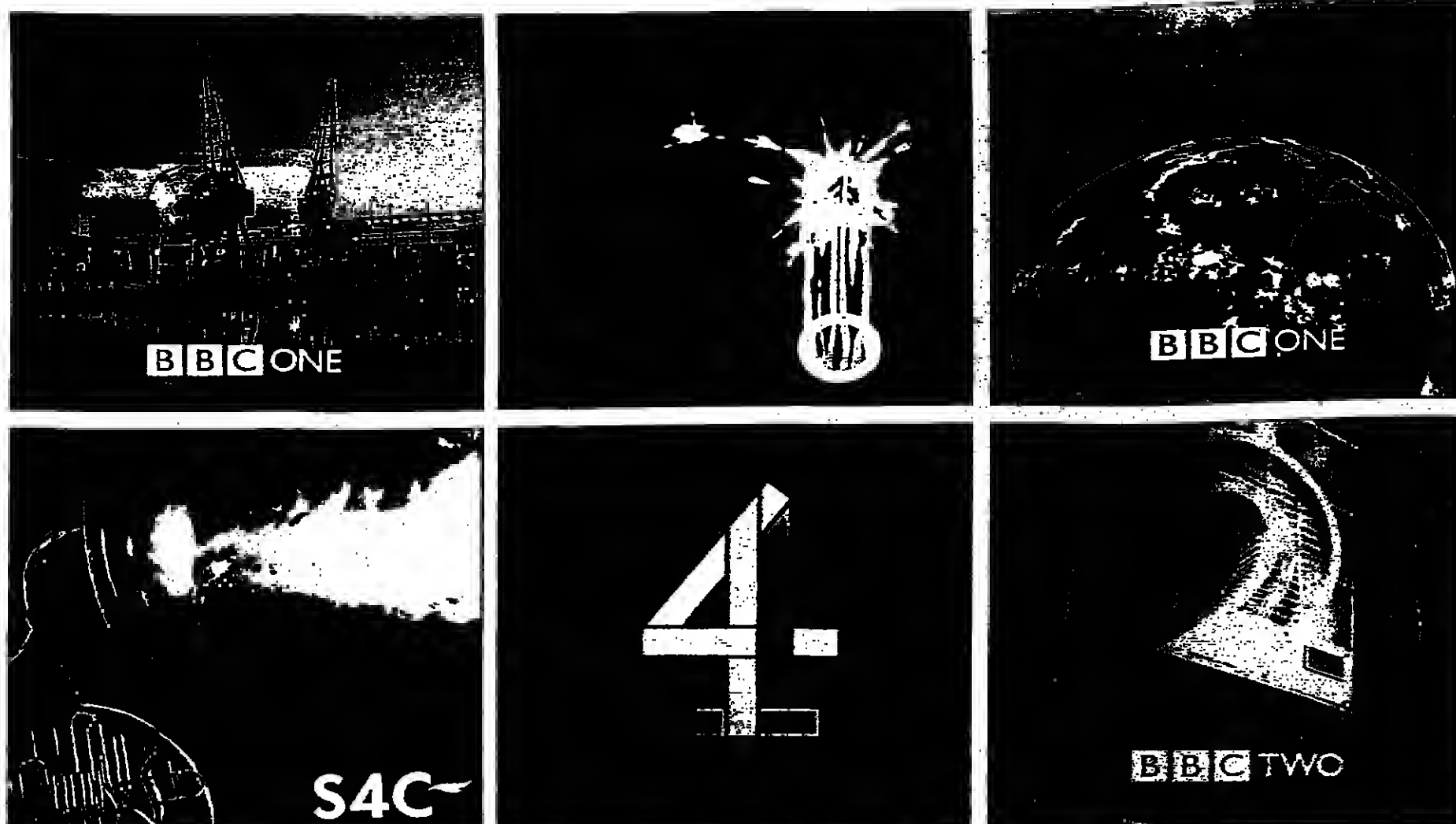
The premise of the show must also hit a nerve; it must be contemporary and fresh, and in tune with what's happening in society. Few writers achieve this.

My theme night is made up of some of the best sitcom pilots ever made, and all illustrate the brilliance the writers have shown in getting around the sitcom Catch-22. They will air chronologically, in historical order and will be introduced by Clive James, the former Observer television critic and international television guru.

Kicking off the evening, the first-ever episode of the hit US series *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, which has a cracking

Produced by: MICK PILSWORTH
Producer: Mark Hayman
Director: Julian Saul

19.30
The Mary Tyler Moore Show
20.00
I Love Lucy
20.30
The Likely Lads
21.00
Porridge
21.30
Birds of a Feather
22.00
Drop the Dead Donkey



Lambie-Nairn has shaped the corporate identities of both the BBC's terrestrial channels, as well as Carlton, S4C and Channel 4

By their logos shall you know them

Blame Martin Lambie-Nairn. He designed the Channel 4 logo, and now the name of the game is branding, rebranding and re-rebranding. By Janine Gibson

SKY IS at it, ITV's at it, last year even the BBC did it. In channel terms, anyone who's anyone is having an image revamp, an on-air facelift or a branding exercise. Last month ITV announced that this autumn it will have a whole new face, courtesy of the design firm English + Pockett. Sky 1 got a new look last week and, by September, every single Sky channel will be rebranded.

It's that oft-cited digital future rearing its head that has caused the present vogue for an all-singing, all-dancing "ident". The fact that ITV has not had a new on-air identity for 10 years speaks volumes for the state of marketing in terrestrial television. When there were just the three channels, who really needed to lure viewers with strong, smartly targeted, integrated branding?

When Channel 4 launched in 1982 with its 3-D, computer-generated figure "4", it gave us all a shock. Suddenly everyone wanted an animated logo, and the regional ITV companies set their in-house graphics departments on the case. Channel 4's identity had become a viable business, and Martin Lambie-Nairn - creator of the "4" - was the

designer everyone wanted. Darrell Pockett, whose firm English + Pockett is now writing briefs for the creatives on the ITV account, also designed the present ITV identity back in 1988. He notes a change: "It was very much a political exercise then. It was pre-franchise round and the whole of the ITV network wanted to be seen as solid, but I could never quite understand why - they all obviously wanted to represent their own interests."

With the consolidation of ownership, things are different for ITV. "This isn't a political exercise - it's to try and get an identity for ITV, which hasn't got one as such because it's a federation of companies," Pockett's challenge is to "re-establish the identity of channel 3 and put over its merits as the popular entertainment channel". The third button on the remote

has so many different names, viewers don't even know what to call it. The north-east franchise occasionally known as Tyne Tees Television has, in particular, suffered in recent years. For decades just known as Tyne Tees, it was rebranded as Channel 3 North East when Yorkshire Television took over. Local upstart led to that move being reversed last year when Granada took over Yorkshire Tyne Tees. Confused?

By contrast, Channel 5 launched last year with one of the best targeted off-air marketing campaigns ever. But, says Lambie-Nairn, it wasn't enough. "A channel launch is very different to revamping one already in existence. You're able to launch on promises. In the end, of course, if the product doesn't live up to the brand, viewers reject it."

Lambie-Nairn, who reinvented BBC2 in 1988, is adamant on this

point: "All branding is 90 per cent programming, but it is possible to have a brand which says one thing when the programmes say another. BBC2's brand was old, dull and snobbish, and the programmes were radically turning into anything but that." His task was to align the branding with the content, and the multiple awards that have been won by BBC2's *Idents* bear testimony to his success.

Sky 1's new look is based on a similar principle. Made by the comedy producer Tiger Aspect, a series of new *Idents* focuses on the channel's key programmes. Behind-the-scenes experts from *Friends* and *ER* pass on some of the secrets of the shows, such as how to put on a surgical rubber glove in two seconds. A new logo is based around a television set-type box which, according to the general manager, Elisabeth

Murdoch, shows that "we are the lens on your world".

It's the first in a concerted move by Sky to refocus every single channel. Murdoch says branding doesn't necessarily mean changing. "It's about trying to get to the heart of what you do, what makes you you." For that reason, she feels Sky Sports is least in need of a facelift.

"It has probably been the most successful in having a clear sense of itself because live sports is so passionate in itself," she says. "People have to have a relationship with a broadcaster if it's to be valuable to them. This country has now realised that - the US broadcasters had to realise it when [the premium movie channel] HBO came along." Murdoch will, by September, have reinvented Sky Movies in HBO's image, presenting added value to viewers with *Exclusives* (made-for-TV movies) and reinforcing that value on screen. She adds: "It's essential that every channel has a very clear identity and sense of itself." So, come September, we can expect a coherent, united ITV and a distinct portfolio of self-aware Sky channels. If only it were that easy.

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هكذا من الأصل

Gary Lineker is a big fish in British crisps. But he's small fry overseas. By Meg Carter

Crunch time for Walkers crisps

It was a different Garza who captured the attention of an ever-excitable advertising industry last week. Gary Lineker, the star of Walkers' popular "Mr Nice Guy" advertising campaign, was at the centre of the shock £11m transfer of Walkers' advertising account from the London agency BMP DDB to rival AMV BBDO.

"Just what do you have to do to keep hold of an advertising account nowadays?" industry stalwarts muttered in despair. For BMP, which won the Walkers business four years ago, had been widely praised for the Lineker ads that kicked off in January 1995. So successful seemed the relationship that BMP subsequently won Walkers' sister brands Quakers and Doritos (ironically, from AMV) without a pitch.

BMP's Walkers campaign has become an advertising classic. Remember the one when Gary steals a bag of crisps from a small boy? And the one where he makes Paul Gascoigne cry, the Swedish movie spoof with Ulrika Jonsson, the double-Gentle-packed Spice Girls commercial, the World Cup ad featuring the Brazilian football ace Romario - naked? "The global forces of PepsiCo have, in all likelihood, put an end to such gems," the industry magazine *Campaign* lamented last week.

Today, as BMP licks its wounds, it is clear that the London agency has fallen foul of a creeping trend. Walkers - whose owner, Frito-Lay, is a division of the multinational giant PepsiCo - is but one piece in an international chess game. For the past 11 months, PepsiCo has been globally realigning its \$200m world-wide advertising business. In plain English this means moving all advertising into a single, world-wide advertising agency network - in this case AMV's parent, BBDO, based in New York.

"Exactly the same thing happened to us with Nike," says Paul Simmons, chief executive of TBWA Simons Palmer. The sports brand recently dropped the UK agency in favour of Wieden & Kennedy, its agency in the US which opened a London office two months ago. "The irony is that the last work we did for

them [the 'Park Life' commercial featuring top football stars in a Sunday league knockabout] has won every award going this year."

Mr Simmons commiserates with BMP but believes the agency is the victim of a growing trend. "It's down to where the centre of gravity within a company exists," he explains. As clients grow bigger and increasingly multinational, advertising agencies are having to follow suit. What happens in the "lead" territory can have a dramatic knock-on effect in local markets elsewhere.

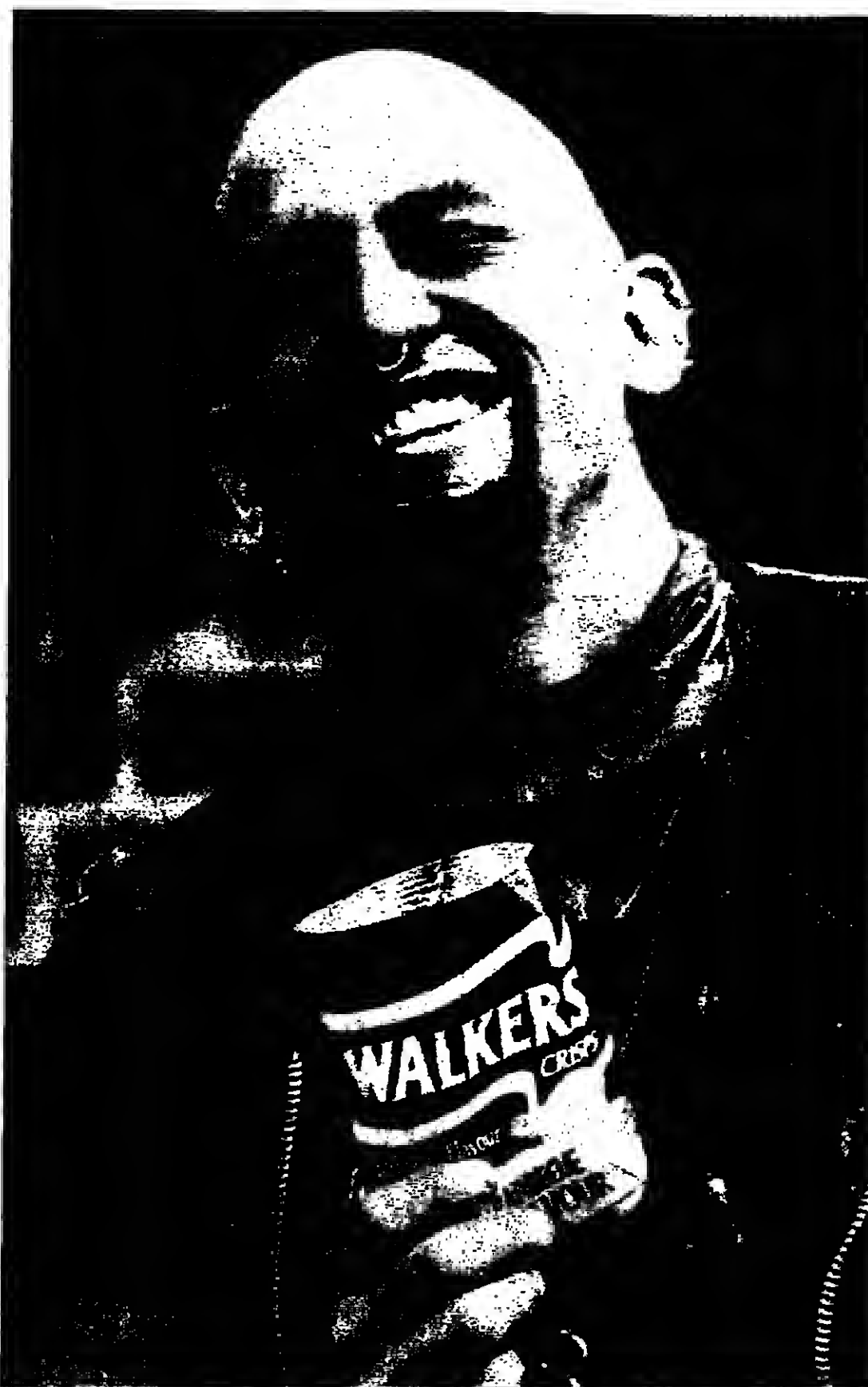
Which was just the case with DMB&B, which won the UK advertising account for Budweiser but lost it when the American owners of the brand switched to the rival agency DDB. As a result, DDB's UK agency BMP DDB was forced to resign the Scottish Courage account because of a conflict of interest. Neither DMB&B nor BMP DDB was happy with the outcome.

"You can create great work that builds brands and sales and still lose the business - for political reasons, human relationships or bigger moves like this which you can do nothing about," says DMB&B's marketing director, Nigel Marsh.

The globalisation of international brands is a driving force. It may not make much sense to the consumer, but someone somewhere can sleep more peacefully knowing they've saved the company millions of pounds by putting all advertising through a single agency. Or by not having to print different packaging for different countries - as dedicated consumers of Mars-owned Snickers (or Opal Fruits) know only too well.

"Global companies now see brands as their key assets and chief executive officers see themselves as brand managers," BMP's UK managing director, Michael Bray, said last week. "The top people used to be involved in production and buying factories but now they want direct control of brands."

AMV is expected to continue Lineker's popular Walkers campaign. Frito-Lay bosses are understood to still want to use the "No More Mr Nice Guy" idea. And this



One of the widely praised Walkers crisps ads featuring Gary Lineker in a variety of roles

despite their initial reservations - the company reportedly had cold feet at first and instructed BMP to film two alternative endings: one where Lineker stole the crisps, the other where he gave them back.

A creative shift in strategy, however, may still occur. Why? Frito-Lay's flat potato crisps are known as Walkers only in the UK; they have local brand names in other countries. An ominous signal came with the recent decision to replace the product's local branding in Spain with its US brand name, Lay's.

Observers are sceptical. Global rebranding leads to global advertising campaigns. All too often others attempt to develop single creative strategies appropriate for all territories. It can be a lowest common denominator approach - as typified by the stomach-churning delights of the Whigley's chewing-gum campaign.

There are exceptions. Coca-Cola, for one, has a tightly controlled global marketing strategy but a host of locally produced ads. And Unilever has adopted a similar approach across a number of its

brands. Even so, creeping globalisation is a trend viewed with mistrust by many adland creatives, who warn that it may well have an adverse effect on the ads we see.

For the time being, there's no news of any plan to axe the Walkers brand in the UK. Which is why AMV can confidently say there's little chance of Walkers' advertising ever being produced in the US. Even so, the brand - which, thanks to Lineker, was named brand of the year at the ITV marketing awards in 1996 - may yet find its days are numbered.

PITCH

AN ADVERTISING AGENCY AND A PR FIRM
FIGHT IT OUT TO REVIVE THE AILING
WOMEN'S MAGAZINE 'FRANK'

John Bacon, Executive Creative Director of FCB I had to look at the magazine fairly rigorously before I figured out who it was aimed at - and it should be obvious. It looks like the thirtysomething bracket, which is a bit of a nothing bracket.

I would look to the publication that twentysomethings are reading and is selling more than 70,000 copies a month and seek to bring Frank in line with that - so that there is a link between what they used to read and what Frank is offering now.

At the moment I think it's fairly bland and generic. My wife is a bulk consumer of magazines, but she's never bought Frank. The strength of the offering is the name; it is tremendously powerful. It's going to sound terribly obvious, but I would spend a lot of money very quickly, very visibly, mining the name for all it's worth. I'd attach an attitude to the name, as simply as possible - something like "You might as well be Frank".

The advertising would revolve around "being Frank". You could stick a picture of a gorgeous girl on a boarding with the line "She may as well be Frank". The meaning of it will depend on what she's doing, who she's doing it with, and why she's doing it. All those bits tell the story, and the line becomes the branding. The present strapline - "The new magazine for women" - is a product description. Where's the excitement in that?

I'd go for 15-sheet and 48-sheet posters on prime sites. Ailing publications don't need long-term therapy; you have to fix things very quickly or your patient will be dead. I would seek to be controversial, outrageous - to set my agenda in a way clearly indicative of the magazine's attitude. It's what *Cosmopolitan* did when it launched, and everyone knows what *Cosmo* is about: it's about how many orgasms can you have in one night "at it". *Vogue* is about clothes, *Harpers & Queen* is about your social life, *Vanity Fair* is about journalism, but Frank isn't about anything - yet.

Hilary Meacham, managing director of Focus PR When Frank was launched it was acclaimed for breaking the mould of women's magazines and creating a style that was its own. So it's strange that it has struggled to find its place. Interestingly, when we called their advertising department to get a profile of



who their readers are, they couldn't supply one - which might be where the problem is. Who are they writing for? They could do with some research to find their niche, and then expand on it.

Once they've got some material from their research it'll give them clues as to which way they should go and who their readers are. I'm surprised they've been able to sell advertising without knowing who's buying it.

And it's still got the strapline "The new magazine for women", which has to go. We would come up with a new strapline - according to whatever they decide they are. Company has on its spine "For the freedom years", and that gives anyone a clear sign that it's either for them or it isn't. It isn't particularly obvious, picking up Frank, who it's for.

Then we would suggest a small redesign and re-establish it with a slightly new look. They could also get in a guest editor based on which figures the research showed their readers admired most.

We've found that the best way of promotion is radio, because the reader identifies with the voice. Nicky Campbell has a phone-in show on Radio 5 Live, and if there was a story that interested Frank readers, the editor could go on and take a strong stance. If the research shows that Frank readers spend their money in a certain store, then you could target readers through that store's card or cash desk.

What Frank may have got wrong is distribution. They distributed too many to Sainsbury's and Safeways and too few to newsagent chains. I would buy a magazine at a Tube kiosk, because I think it's part of dashing around, being in London; I would not buy it at 9pm in a supermarket. I think the product's strong; they've just got to get the focus right.

Interviews by Scott Hughes

TEL: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS: MEDIA, MARKETING, SALES

FAX: 0171 293 2505

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These are just a few of the many vacancies our clients have for experienced software technical authors. All require excellent written and verbal communication skills, plus experience of on-line documentation tools and techniques.

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MARKETING MANAGER

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We are a progressive company, supplying (fabrics, yarns and fibres) to a broad range of customers in the UK and Europe.

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a dynamic individual to help us fulfil our development strategy.

Candidates must have:

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Computer literacy is essential and language skills would be an advantage.

Applicants should apply in writing only, with full C.V. to:

Ms R. Carter
Panasia Textile Trading Limited
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London W1N 7LD

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As a major supplier to the leading high street retailers we are looking to appoint a dynamic and highly experienced Sales and Marketing Manager to drive and co-ordinate our ambitious plans for expansion in Europe.

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If you are interested, please write in confidence with full CV to: Managing Director, Savannah Co. Ltd., Princess House, Suite 395, 50-60 Eastcastle Street, London W1N 7AP

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We are specialists in the provision of niche market technical products to the animal nutrition industry.

We wish to appoint a Technical Manager for the UK and Europe to develop existing products technically and commercially.

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For those candidates not familiar with the market, the counterparties in the development and sale of trade exhibitions include exhibiting companies, trade associations and government trade and industry representatives, both from the UK and the countries where the exhibitions are based. If you have not sold before, you must at least have paid some fees of experience in business. The minimum age will be about 24 years.

Please call Theo Stegers or Nancy Waltman today. Do not send your CV yet.

Recruitment Matters, 13-15 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3EJ
Telephone: 0171-377 1600. Fax: 0171-377 1801
E-mail: theo@rml.simplyonline.co.uk.

RADIO Journalist

The number one radio in South West London is looking for a talented journalist to join our small, busy news team.

You'll be desk editor, helpline reader, and reporter rolled into one, with the ability to present our fifteen minute evening news programme.

You could be newly qualified, a fresh face who's ready for a full time post, or have bags of experience.

Located midway between Putney and Fulham - the parklands in all-Cardinals, London, and the South Downs.

CV and demo tape by June 26 to: Adam Porter, News Editor, Spirit FM
9-10 Dulwich Court, Dogwood Road
Clifden, West Sussex PO19 2TX
01243 84777
Recruitment matters/submit a demo tape.

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To advertise in this section please call the MEDIA team on 0171 293 2332.



22/LISTINGS

Scream 2 4.15pm, 8.40pm Sliding
Doors 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.30pm,
6.40pm, 9pm Westminster 2pm, 6.45pm

SIDCUP

ABC (0541-555131) BR. Sidcup Deep
Impact 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm The
Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.35pm,
6.15pm, 8.45pm

STAPLES CORNER

VIRGIN (0870-907071) BR. Crick-
wood Dark City 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.10pm,
9.30pm Deep Impact 3pm, 5.45pm,
8.30pm Red Corner 3.15pm, 6.30pm,
9.15pm The Replacement Killers 2.30pm,
4.45pm, 8.45pm, 9pm Sliding Doors 2pm,
4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm, 9.15pm
The Wedding Singer 2.15pm, 4.30pm,
7pm, 9.15pm

STRATFORD (NEW)

PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366)
ABC (0870-902041) BR. Stratford
East The General 1pm, 3.40pm,
6.20pm, 9pm Liar 1.15pm, 5.40pm,
8.40pm Red Corner 2pm, 5.30pm,
8.30pm Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.35pm,
8.35pm

STREATHAM

ABC (0870-902041) BR. Streatham
Hill Deep Impact 2.10pm, 5.40pm,
8.40pm Red Corner 2pm, 5.30pm,
8.30pm Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.35pm,
8.35pm

ODEON (0181-315 4219)

BR. Streatham Hill (0870-902041) BR. Streatham
Hill The Big Lebowski 12.30pm,
5.50pm The Blackout 12.30pm, 3.40pm,
6.20pm, 8.40pm Dark City 1.50pm,
4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm The
Replacement Killers 2.20pm, 4.30pm,
6.40pm, 8.50pm Scream 2 3pm,
8.30pm The Wedding Singer 1.10pm,
4.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

SUTTON

UCI 6 (0950-888990) BR. Sutton
Morden Blues Brothers 2000 2.45pm
Deconstructing Harry 6.30pm
Deep Impact 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm The
General 5.30pm Red Corner 3.15pm,
9pm Scream 2 3.30pm Sliding Doors
4.15pm, 8.45pm Star Kid 4.45pm,
Washington Square 7pm The Wedding
Singer 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Westminster 8.30pm

TURNPIKE LANE

CORNET (0181-888 2519) BR.
Turnpike Lane, Dard Savage 4pm,
6.20pm, 8.40pm Dark City 3.45pm,
6.10pm, 8.40pm The Wedding Singer
4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

UXBRIDGE

ODEON (01895-813139) BR.
Uxbridge Deep Impact 1.30pm, 5.20pm,
8.20pm The Wedding Singer 1.15pm,
4pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

WALTHAMSTOW

ABC (0870-902042) BR. Walthamstow
Central Deep Impact 2.30pm, 5.20pm,
8.10pm The Wedding Singer 1.25pm,
3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Wild Things
1.20pm, 5.40pm Westminster 3.30pm,
8.40pm

WALTON

THE SCREEN AT WALTON
(01932-252825) BR. Walton on Thames
Sliding Doors 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm,
6.35pm, 8.50pm

WELL HALL

CORNET (0181-850 3351) BR.
Eltham Deep Impact 3.20pm, 5.55pm,
8.25pm The Wedding Singer 4pm,
6.30pm, 8.50pm

WILLESDEN

BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) BR.
Willesden Green The General 4pm,
6.30pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON

ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR.
Wimbledon (0870-902041) BR. Wimbledon
The Big Lebowski 2.10pm, 5.10pm,
9.25pm Dark City 1.25pm, 6.20pm Deep
Impact 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm
Martha + Meel Frank, Daniel &
Laurence 3.30pm, 8.45pm
Sliding Doors 1.20pm, 3.40pm,
6.10pm, 8.45pm The Wedding Singer
1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

WOODFORD

ABC (0181-989 3463) BR. South
Woodford The Big Lebowski 1.30pm,
4.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm Sliding
Doors 2.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm The
Wedding Singer 1.20pm, 3.40pm,
6pm, 8.20pm

WOOLWICH

CORNET (0181-854 5043) BR.
Woolwich Arsenal Deep Impact 3.15pm,
5.50pm, 8.20pm Red Corner 3.20pm,
5.55pm, 8.25pm

CINEMA

REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE AT THE
INSTITUT FRANCAIS Odeon Place
SW7 (0171-828 2144) Quizzes
Jazz Avec Moi 7.30pm

EVERYMAN Hollywood Vale NW3
(0171-435 1525) Spite Marriage
1.35pm, 6.20pm & The Cameraman
(U) 3.05pm, 7.50pm & The General
(U) 4.35pm, 9.20pm

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647)
Nowhere (18) 5pm, 9pm Pain 1.15pm,
8.30pm Football Shorts 11pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274)
The Wanders (PG) 2.30pm Star
Spectacular Rhythmic Variations
8.15pm Balladancer (Valkansister)
Contemporary Greece 6.30pm
Swallows And Anzons Parts 4-6
Television 7.30pm No Polo, No Gato
8.30pm The Beast With Five
Fingers 8.45pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero, W1
(0171-494 4153) Everest (U) 11.15pm,
1.20pm, 3.25pm, 5.30pm, 7.35pm, 9.40pm
Across The Sea Of Time - A New Year
Adventure (U) 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm,
6.30pm, 8.35pm, 10.40pm

PHOENIX High Road N2 (0171-883 2233)
Smile's Feeling For Sinner (15)
1.15pm Afterglow (15) 3.30pm, 6pm,
8.30pm The Big Lebowski (18) 6.15pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester
Place WC2 (0171-881 8181) White (15)
1.30pm Balladancer (15) 6.30pm
Oscar And Lucinda (15) 9pm

RIO Kingsland High Street E8 (0171-254 6677)
George Of The Jungle (U)
4.15pm Happy Together (15) 6.15pm
Western (15) 8.25pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp
Road W6 (0181-741 2255) The Blue

Angel (PG) 6.45pm & The Threepenny
Opera 8.45pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE

High Street, Bedford, MK43 (0181-568
1176) Les Voleurs (18) 4.45pm Wash-
ington Square (PG) 7pm Sliding
Doors (15) 9pm

BRIGHTON

DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA
(01273-626261) Jank Mail (Bodrin-
geren) (15) 2pm, 7pm Live Flesh (18)
4pm, 9pm

BRISTOL

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845)
The Hanging Garden (15) 6.05pm
Washington Square (PG) 5.45pm
Welcome To Sarajevo (15) 8.10pm
Happy Together (15) 8.15pm

CAMBRIDGE

ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)
Gattaca (15) 12.45pm, 7.20pm Live
Flesh (18) 3pm, 9.30pm Member Aud
Son (U) 5.10pm

CARDIFF

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE
(01222-399666) Live Flesh (18)
7.30pm Shall We Dance? (PG) 8.45pm

CHICHESTER

NEW PARK FILM CENTRE
(01243-786650) The Big Lebowski (18)
3.30pm Sliding Doors (15) 6.15pm
Shall We Dance? (PG) 8.45pm

IPSWICH

FILM THEATRE (01473-215544)
Kundun (12) 2.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Live
Flesh (18) 6pm Out Of The Past (PG)
8.15pm

NORWICH

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047)
Nowhere (18) 2.30pm Good Will
Hunting (18) 5.45pm

PLYMOUTH

ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114)
Jackie Brown (15) 8pm

CINEMA
COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON

ABC EAST STREET (01273-
327010) The Wedding Singer (12);
Sliding Doors (15); The Little Mermaid
(U); Deep Impact (12); Six Days, Seven
Nights (12); Mad City (15)

ODEON (01273-207977)

Lolita (18); Six Days, Seven Nights (12); Dark
City (15); The Wedding Singer (12);
The Little Mermaid (U); The Butcher
Boy (15); Wild Things (18); Mouseshunt
(PG); The Big Lebowski (18); Deep Im-
pact (12); Mimic (15); City Of Angels
(12); Soul Food (15); The Replacement
Killers (18)

VIRGIN CINEMA (0541-555145)

The Castle (15); The Wedding Singer
(12); The Replacement Killers (18);
Red Corner (15); Star Kid (PG); Mad
City (15); Washington Square (PG);
City Of Angels (12); Shift Under Lips
(15); Mouseshunt (PG); Sliding Doors
(15); Six Days, Seven Nights (12); Dark
City (15); Westminster (15); The Little
Mermaid (U); Mimic (15); Deep Im-
pact (12); The Object Of My Affection
(15); Paws (PG); The Apostle (12);
Scream 2 (18)

CAMBRIDGE

WARRIOR VILLAGE (01223-
460422) Four Weddings And A
Funeral (15); Sliding Doors (15); The
Crow (18); Westminster (18); Mad City
(15); Six Days, Seven Nights (12);
Martha + Meel Frank, Daniel &
Laurence (15); U-Turn (18); The Big
Lebowski (18); Blues Brothers 2000
(PG); City Of Angels (12); Wild Things
(18); Scream 2 (18); Deep Impact (12);
The Land Girls (12); William
Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet (12);
The Little Mermaid (U); Mimic (15);
Red Corner (15); Titanic (12); The Ob-
ject Of My Affection (15); Anastasia
(U); Casper (PG); Mouseshunt (PG);
Soul Food (15); Dark City (15);
The Wedding Singer (12)

GLOUCESTER

VIRGIN CINEMA (0541-555174)
Deep Impact (12); Star Kid (PG);
Mouseshunt (PG); The Replacement
Killers (18); Anastasia (U); Red Cor-
ner (15); The Wedding Singer (12);
Sliding Doors (15); Paws (PG); Six
Days, Seven Nights (12); The Little
Mermaid (U); Dark City (15)

NORWICH

ABC CINEMA (0541-560567)
Blues Brothers 2000 (PG); Mimic (15);
Desperate Measures (18); Sliding
Doors (15); Star Kid (PG); Paradise
Road (15); Deep Impact (12);
The Castle (15); Spiceworld (12);
The Movie (PG); Westminster (18);
Mad City (15); Red Corner (15);
Mouseshunt (PG)

ODEON (01603-661832)

Anastasia (U); The Ice Storm (15); Scream 2 (18);
Paws (PG); The Object Of My Affec-
tion (15); Bean (PG); The Little
Mermaid (U); The Wedding Singer
(12); City Of Angels (12); Dark City
(15); Spiceworld - The Movie (PG); Six
Days, Seven Nights (12); Flubber (U)

SWANSEA

UCI 10 PARK TOWER (01792-
645005) Shift Upper Lips (15); Deep
Impact (12); Paws (PG); City Of
Angels (12); Regeneration (15); Wild
mister (18); The Wedding Singer (12);
Blues Brothers 2000 (PG); Mimic (15);
Titanic (12); The Object Of My Affec-
tion (15); Anastasia (U); The Land
Girls (12); Scream 2 (18); Great Ex-
pectations (15); Red Corner (15); Slid-
ing Doors (15); Star Kid (PG); The
Replacement Killers (18); A Simple
Wish (U); Dark City (15); The Big
Lebowski (18); The Little Mermaid (U);
Wild Things (18); Flubber (U);
Mouseshunt (PG)

WATFORD

WARNER VILLAGE
(01293-682222) Mimic (15); Sliding
Doors (15); Westminster (18); The Bor-
rowers (U); Scream 2 (18); City Of An-
gels (12); Red Corner (15); The
Wedding Singer (12); Titanic (12);
Deep Impact (12); Anastasia (U);
The Little Mermaid (U); Mouseshunt
(PG); Dark City (15); Mad City (15);
The Object Of My Affection (15); By
Mouth (18); The Land Girls (12); The
Replacement Killers (18); Six Days,
Seven Nights (12); Star Kid (PG)

THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today;

times and prices for the week running
times include intervals. ● = Seats at all
prices ● = Seats at some prices ○ =
Returns only Matinees = [1]: Sun, [3]:
Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thu, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

ART Yasmine Reza's comedy about
art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing
Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/37;
867 1111) ● Leic Sq, Tue-Sat 8pm, [4]
3pm, [7] 11pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

AS YOU LIKE IT Literary
comedy from Shakespeare. The Globe
New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919)
● London Bridge, in rep, tonight 7.30pm,
ends 8 Sep, £5-£20, concs available.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Family musical based on the favourite fair-
tale. Dominion Theatre, Covent Garden,
W1 (0171-836 1888) ● Tot Ct Rd, Mon-
Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, £17.50-
£32.50, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy
Russell's long-running Liverpool musical
melodrama. Phoenix, Charing Cross
Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ● Leic
Sq/Tot Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm,
[7] 4pm, £10.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

BUDDY Musical biog-show
telling the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand
Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800)
● Covent Garden/Charing X, Tue-Thu 8pm,
Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm &
8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £5.75-£30, 160
mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical
version of TS Eliot's poems. New London
Parkway, WC2 (0171-408 0072/23;
404 4079) ● Covent Garden, Sat 5pm &
8.30pm, £7.45pm, [5] 7.30pm, £12.50-
£32.50, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Ruthie Henshall stars.
Adapted from the musical. W1 (0171-344
0055) ● Charing X, Mon-Sat 8pm, [4] 7.30pm,
£16-£36 (inc booking fee), 130
mins.

CLOSER Superb study of
contemporary sexual relationships from
Dealer's Choice author Patrick Marber.
Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494
5045) ● Picc Cir, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4] 7.30pm, £5-£27.50, 140 mins.

THE COMPLETE
HISTORY OF AMERICA
(ABRIDGED)
Reduced Shakespeare Company's keenly-
produced theatrical history lesson. Criterion
Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747)
● Picc Cir, Tue 8pm, £9.50-£20.

ELTON JOHN'S GLASSES
David Farr's comedy about one man's
obsession with the World Football Club and
their failure to win the Cup Final in 1984.
Queen's Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494
5590/92; 344 4444) ● Picc Cir,
Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7]
4pm, £10.50-£27.50.

GAS STATION ANGEL
Story of two lovers who are fated to meet,
from the creator of House Of Cards. Not
suitable for children. Royal Court
Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West
St, W1 (0171-565 0000) ● Leic
Sq, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [7] 4pm, [4] 3pm,
[7] 4pm, £5-£10, 100 mins.

GREASE Marissa Dunlop stars
in the stage version of the film.
Cambridge Earls Court, WC2 (0171-494
5080) ● Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4] 7.30pm, £10-£30, 150
mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND
Christopher Cazenove and Kate O'Mara
in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of
Wilde's comedy. Albany St, Martin's
Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730/37; 867
1111) ● Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5]
3pm, [7] 4pm, £7.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS
Stephen Daldry's widely acclaimed
production of J.R. Priestley's thriller.
Barrick Charing Cross Road, WC2
(0171-494 5085) ● Leic Sq, Mon-Fri
7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, Sat
5pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins.

KAT AND THE KINGS
Musical set in 1950s Cape Town. Vaude-
ville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987)
8R/9 ● Charing X, Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat
5.30pm & 8.30pm, £6.25-£27.50,
130 mins.

A LETTER OF RESIGNA-
TION Hugh Whitemore's play about the
Prophets and political morality.
Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/89;
836 0479) ● Charing X/Venue, Mon-Sat
7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm,
£12.50-£25, 135 mins.

THE MAIDS Robert Lepage's
musical of the French classic drama. Lyric
Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741
2311) ● Hammersmith, in rep,
tonight 7.30pm, ends 20 Jun, £5-£20.

MAJOR BARBARA Jenna
Redgrave and Peter Bowles star in George
Bernard Shaw's classic comedy.
Piccadilly Denham Street, W1 (0171-369
1734) ● Picc Cir, in rep, tonight
7.45pm, continuing, £5.50-£27.50.

THE MERCHANT OF
VENICE Shakespeare's cross-cultural
comedy. The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1
(0171-401 9919) ● London Bridge, in rep,
today 2pm, £5-£20, concs available.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S
DREAM Classic tale of love and
confusion set in the fairy kingdom. Open
Air Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486
2431/486 1933) ● Baker Street, in rep,
tonight 8pm, ends 5 Sep, £8-£20.

LES MISERABLES Musical
dramatisation of Victor Hugo's master-
piece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1
(0171-434 0909) ● Picc Cir, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, [5] 7.30pm, £7-£32.50,
195 mins.

THE MISANTHROPE Elaine
Paisie, Michael Pennington, Peter Bowles
and Anna Carteret star. Piccadilly Denham
Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) ● Picc Cir,
in rep, tonight 7.45pm, continuing,
£8.50-£27.50, concs £12.50, 140 mins.

MISS SAIGON Musical which
retells the Saigon Butterfly tragedy to
Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane
Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060)
● Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm,
[4] 7.30pm, £5.75-£32.50, 165 mins.

THE MOUTHRAP Agatha
Christie's whodunit. St Martin's West
Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) ● Leic
Sq, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7]
5pm, £9-£23, 135 mins.

MUCH ADO ABOUT

NOTHING Declan Donnellan directs
Cheek By Jowl in a new production of
Shakespeare's classic. Playhouse
Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839
4401/316 4747) ● Embankment,
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.30pm, ends
25 Jul, £10-£22.

THE PHANTOM OF THE

OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's
Gothic musical. Her Majesty's
Theatre, SW1 (0171-494 5400/544
4444) ● Picc Cir, Mon-Sat 7.45pm,
[4] 7.30pm, booking to 19 Dec,
£10-£32.50, 150 mins.

POPCORN Lawrence Boswell
directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema
violence. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1
(0171-494 5070) ● Picc Cir, Mon-Sat
8pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £5.50-£23.50,
150 mins.

THE REAL INSPECTOR
HOUND & BLACK COMEDY
Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard
and Peter Schaffer. Comedy Pantom
Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ● Picc
Cir/Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm,
£7.50-£27.50, 165 mins.

RENT New musical inspired by
La Bohème. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury
Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) ● Hol-
born/Tot Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm,
£12.50-£32.50, 160 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL
THEATRE The London Cuck-
ooes Ravenscroft's Restoration comedy
stars Caroline Quentin. In rep, today
2.15pm & 7.30pm, continuing, 195
mins.

Oliver: An Enemy Of The
People Ian McKellen stars in a new
version of Ibsen's explosive critical
drama. In rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends 20
Jun, 180 mins.

Our Lady Of
Sings Out Of John's latest production
stars Sinead Cusack. In rep, tonight
7.30pm, continuing, 150 mins. Oliver &
Lynette: £8-£27, Cottesloe: £12-£18.
Day tickets from 10am, South Bank, SE1
(0171-452 3000) ● Waterloo

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER
Hil 1970s musical featuring classic
disco songs by the Bee Gees, as well as
three new songs. London Palladium
Ardul Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ●
Oxford Cir, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm,
£10-£32.50, 135 mins.

SHOW BOAT Jerome Kern and
Oscar Hammerstein's musical set on the
Mississippi. Prince Edward Old Con-
stitution Street, W1 (0171-447 5400) ● Leic
Sq/Tot Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.30pm,
£10-£35, 180 mins.

SNOKEY JOE'S CAFE -
THE SONGS OF LEIBER
AND STOLLER The rock and roll
hitmakers celebrated in a musical review
that includes Jailhouse Rock, Prince of
Wales Country, W1 (0171-839
5972) ● Leic Sq, Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri
5.45pm & 8.30pm, Sat 3pm & 8pm, £15-
£32.50, Fri mats £10-£25, 135 mins.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS
Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-skating
musical. Apollo Victoria William Road,
SW1 (0171-416 6070) 8R/9 ● Victoria,
Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3] 7.30pm, £12.50-
£30, 150 mins.

SWEET CHARITY Bonnie
Langford stars in this popular musical,
featuring the numbers 'We Big Spender'
& 'Rhythm Of Life'. Victoria Palace
Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317)
8R/9 ● Victoria, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm,
£15-£30.

THINGS WE DO FOR
LOVE Jane Asher stars in

